

Local

Propst, Sablan lead independent bets

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst and Tina Sablan are two of the big-name independents who are hoping to keep the balance in the CNMI House of Representatives, with the latter making a comeback after serving in the 16th Legislature.

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands has endorsed Propst and Sablan, though both are running as independent candidates for Precinct 1 and 2 after the Democratic Party fielded only two candidates this election—Glenn Muña for Precinct 1 and Peter Muña for Precinct 5.

The party is also backing the independent gubernatorial ticket of former governor Juan N. Babauta and Dr. Rita A. Sablan, aside from the senatorial bids of former House speaker Heinz Hofschneider and former local Labor secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero.

Franklin Babauta and Samantha Birmingham-Babauta are two other independent candidates for Precinct 1 that's

also being supported by the local Democrats.

Propst said the law that granted salary increases to many in the CNMIMI government—Public Law 19-83—is one of the hotly contested issues that need to be addressed in the coming Legislature. P.L. 19-83 became law even with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres or then-acting governor Arnold I Palacios not signing it.

A case is still pending in the Superior Court after the CNMI Attorney General's Office sued the government on the constitutionality of the salary increases for elected officials.

"There are several critical issues, including repealing the 80-percent salary increase bill and the governor and lieutenant governor's lifetime annuity bill that doesn't even require them to serve at least one full term," said Propst. "[Other issues are] ensuring poker doesn't return to our villages, ensuring all businesses, big and small, are treated fairly, to ensure that we focus on sustainable tourism, con-



Former representative Tina Sablan, left, and Rep. Edwin Propst thank the local Democratic Party for endorsing several independent candidates like them.

trolled development, and better health care for our people."

Propst said that public servants are elected to improve the lives of the common people. "Public servant leaders must remember to enrich the lives of our people before enriching ourselves."

"We can start by supporting H.B. 20-39, a bill that Rep. Ed Villagomez and I introduced in February of 2017 that would eliminate the 80-percent salary increases for elected officials."

He said that it is too late for him to change his affiliation but is thankful for the endorsement of the Democrats. "I already turned in my petition to the [Commonwealth Election Commission] with my committee and family."

"It stated I am running as an independent candidate. It is too late to change that. The Democratic Party has graciously agreed to endorse our independent candidates, and we independents agreed to do the same."

Propst added that some independents like him have been working closely with the

Democrats to help the people of the CNMI. "To ensure that our government works for the people and puts the needs of our people first."

Sablan is hoping to return to the House after serving as one of the six Precinct 1 representatives in the 16th Legislature. This time, she's running in Precinct 2 with the same reasons that some independent candidates are fighting for.

"We are concerned with the direction that we're going as a community. People are falling behind in this new economy and we wanted to stand up for them. There's so much potential to make these islands healthier, safer, and happier," said Sablan. "We're hoping to make a government that really works for all the people and not just a few or for special interests. I think I have something to contribute to that."

She congratulated the local Democratic Party for a successful convention last Saturday at the Grandvrio Hotel's Fiesta Room. "I know a lot of hard work, personal time and

See PROPST on Page 4

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA¹

- I. Preliminary
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. June 20, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
- II. Public Comments²
- III. Reports
 1. Chair
 2. Board Committees
 - a. FPA
 - b. SARC
 3. Commissioner of Education
 - a. Financial Status Reports
 - i. Federal
 - ii. Local
 - b. Head Start Program
 - c. Others
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
 1. Updates:
 - a. School Year 2018-2019:
 - i. Opening
 - ii. Staffing Pattern
 - iii. Other matters
 2. Head Start Supplemental Training and Technical Assistance Grant Application
 3. Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) Proposal to OIA for \$750,000
 4. Proposed Rules & Regulations as Final – Student Discipline
 5. Proposed Rules & Regulations as Final – Promotion and Graduation Requirements
 6. Payment of Legal Fees
 7. Certification & Licensure Matters
 - a. CLO Report No. 2018-008
 - b. Updates to Fingerprinting
- VI. Executive Session³
 1. Legal Updates
 2. Personnel/Certification
 3. Other matters
- VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

¹ In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.

² Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Ex-independent bets join GOP slate

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Several former independent candidates have joined the NMI Republican Party slate for this November election, citing various reasons why they again hope to serve the people of the Commonwealth under the GOP ticket. The entire GOP ticket filed their candidacies yesterday morning.

One of those ex-independent candidates is Sen. Justo S. Quitugua, who was a member of the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Inc. when he was in the House and chose to run as an independent in the 2014 elections.

Quitugua then won one of the two senatorial seats at stake for Saipan, elected along with Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, who is now running for lieutenant governor with incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Quitugua said he weighed all his options before finally choosing to join the local GOP. "It is something that I decided with my family. That perhaps, joining a political party would be more advantageous in terms of doing more public service for the people."

"In the 19th and 20th Legislature, I've worked very well with the other elected officials and in the Senate, including the GOP. That's when I decided

that, since we forged these good working relationships, it's time to join the party," he added.

For Rep. BJ Attao, it was his intention to honor the word that he gave his father that he's going to seek re-election under the GOP banner. His father, Jesus T. Attao, was a Republican stalwart since getting elected and served for 16 years in the CNMI Legislature.

"As soon as I got back from my Dad's medical treatment, I have to honor my word that I gave him that I would seek re-election under the GOP. I've worked with the administration even as a member of the minority in the House," said Attao.

"It has always been an open-door policy between [Gov. Torres] and me, not just in the political arena. We've known each other way when we were kids. The working relationship and friendship that we built is an important thing," he added.

Attao vowed that he would be working for everyone—"looking at the whole CNMI as a family and working...in providing for the best for everyone, whether an independent or Republican or whatever party."

Former representative Ralph N. Yumul said he has always been a GOP member at heart, even as a member of the independent bloc in previous legislatures. "When I first ran, I ran under independent-GOP.

From then on, we went our separate ways, but I always voted along the lines of the administration because my beliefs have always been Republican from the beginning."

Yumul finished seventh out of the six seats for Precinct 3 in the 2016 elections, losing his re-election bid for the 20th Legislature to Joe Itibus by 39 votes. Now, he has moved forward and glad that the local GOP accepted his candidacy to run again.

Yumul said the Legislature needs someone who knows about business, especially with the CNMI economy

improving. "I'm going to go ahead and continue what I've done in the past and that's to promote a pro-business climate in the CNMI."

"That's what we're lacking in the House. We don't have a business-savvy person that would come in and be for the businesses in the CNMI, especially with the economic growth that we're experiencing," Yumul added.

It's a reunion of sorts for Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang as he returned to the same party that helped him win a House seat in the past. He ran as an independent in 2014 after the GOP's slate was already complete back then.

"I ran as an independent because when I came back, the GOP's slate was already full. I came back two months before the election but I've always been a Republican since the beginning and my heart's with the GOP."

He said the timing is right for him to return to the GOP's fold. "That's why we want to encourage the people to support the party and its candidates. The time is perfect, with a hardworking administration and the progress that's been happening."

"We've got a good working relationship with the administration, Legislature, and the municipality. Pretty much, we get what we ask for. We plan

to continue working together for our people," added Apatang, who defeated RB Camacho in 2014.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS students, parents' orientation today

Saipan Southern High School will have its school year 2018-2019 orientation for students and parents today, Aug. 7. For 9th graders and new students, it will be at 9am; all returning students will be at 1:30pm. (PR)

NMC employees' training this week

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in professional development activities tomorrow, Aug. 8, 2018. To maximize employee participation, NMC offices will be closed on that day.

On Thursday and Friday—Aug. 9 and 10—the following departments will also be closed as employees who are part of the Division of Learning and Student Success will be taking part in additional professional development activities:

- All academic offices
- Office of Admissions and Records
- Counseling Office
- Financial Aid Office
- Library / Archives
- Office of Institutional Effectiveness
- Office of the LSS VP / Office of the LSS Dean

- Project PROA Office
- UCEDD

These offices will resume normal business hours and operations on Monday, Aug. 13, 2018.

For information regarding the upcoming fall 2018 semester, visit marianas.edu. (NMC)

GTC Elementary School info

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School will have an open house/orientation on Aug. 14, 2018, for new and ongoing GTC students and parents, from 5pm to 6pm, at the school cafeteria, then at the child's classroom. This will allow parents to meet with your child's teacher and gain information about expectations for the school year.

Also, the school is still accepting registrations for new and ongoing students. If you have yet to register your child, do so as soon as possible to ensure your child is placed on the school roster prior to the first day of school. The first day of school is Wednesday, Aug. 15.

For more information, contact the GTC main office at 664-3400/01 or visit its Facebook page at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. (PR)

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Torres eyes even closer ties with Pohnpei, FSM

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met with two officials of the Federated States of Micronesia in a recent trip to Pohnpei in hopes of building stronger ties with its regional neighbor.

Torres attended the certification ceremony of FSM's

local enforcement agencies after being trained by officers of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Aircraft Rescue and Fire-fighting units last week.

Torres had the chance to meet with FSM President Peter Christian and Kolo-

nia Mayor Jose San Nicolas during the ceremony. The CNMI has been helping train its island neighbors in law enforcement, including K-9 units and customs.

Torres said workforce issues were also discussed. "We wanted to do more and build a stronger relationship with Pohnpei and the entire FSM. We talked about building a

capacity workforce here."

"We're trying to build a closer relationship on how we can work together. Creating some sort of labor assistance here. I know McDonald's, through Joe Ayuyu, has been hiring from FSM, so we're trying to see how we can expand that workforce."

He added that the CNMI and FSM could also share

scientific research like the nesting patterns of sea turtles. "We just found out there that a turtle that was laying eggs in Ant Atoll in Pohnpei was tagged. They called [the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] and they actually found out that it was tagged [on] Tinian about a year and a half ago. It's nice to know the fact that

we have our programs where we tag turtles and find it in Pohnpei."

Torres said it's vital to expand that working relationship with FSM. "it really helps to see how to expand that relationship, that's something that we're looking at. Maybe, we can tag a turtle in Pohnpei and see if they're going to migrate to our side."

Polio case confirmed in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY—The National Department of Health of Papua New Guinea and the World Health Organization announced yesterday a case of polio in a 3-year old boy from Mulitaka, Laigam District in Enga Province. The case is the third in the country, following confirmation of two cases from Lae, Morobe Province in June and July 2018.

The confirmation was made on Friday, Aug. 3, 2018, by the Victorian Infectious Disease Reference Laboratory—a WHO Collaborating Center

in Australia. The boy had an onset of symptoms on June 30 and onset of paralysis on July 2. His vaccination history is unknown due to unavailability of the baby clinic book, and his travel history is being established.

Results from the global polio laboratory at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that the new case is genetically linked to the other two cases from Morobe Province.

"The detection of the case is a result of our enhanced sur-

veillance system put in place in all provinces in response to the confirmed polio cases in Morobe province," according to Pascoe Kase, secretary of the National Department of Health. "A joint NDOH and WHO team is currently in the field to conduct an epidemiological investigation. Confirmation of this case in Enga highlights that the outbreak has spread geographically, and this is a concern. It is critical that all children are rapidly vaccinated as part of the ongoing outbreak re-

sponse in the country, to stop the spread of this virus and prevent further children from being paralyzed."

"The identification of this case underscores the importance of maintaining high levels of routine vaccination coverage and effective surveillance systems for early detection," said Dr. Luo Dapeng, WHO representative in Papua New Guinea. "The virus can emerge in populations which are inadequately immunized. In many provinces, including Enga, the

vaccination coverage is far below the required level."

Given substantial vaccination coverage gaps across the country, the risk of further spread of polio within the country continues to be classified as high, particularly with confirmation of spread of the virus to Enga.

"Any province with low routine immunization coverage or gaps in vaccination coverage during the outbreak response is vulnerable for polio virus circulation. This is highlighted by the new confirmed case in Enga," said David McLoughlin, UNICEF

representative in Papua New Guinea.

The National Polio Response Emergency Operations Center is currently updating its risk assessment and planning the enhancement of response operations, including possible expansion of vaccination to the entire Highlands Region.

More than 600 000 doses of oral polio vaccine have already been distributed in Papua New Guinea for supplemental immunization activities. Additional supplies for the remainder of the response are expected to arrive in country in the coming days. (PR)

TORRES

From Page 1

Torres pointed out that that has been his stance since his days in the Legislature.

"We have been making those strides already since Day 1... It is documented [several] years ago, so it is [not] news that I am an advocate for long-term status," he said, adding that he previously proposed Senate documentation proposing to give long-term status to foreign workers in the NMI.

Torres penned during his tenure as a senator a 365-page document on the CNMI Senate's position then on providing long-term status to longtime workers in the CNMI. The recommendation was published on March 2011. The document was submitted to the U.S. Congress then.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in a letter dated Aug. 1, 2018, solicited the support of Torres for his H.R. 6578, which aims to provide a Marianas-only long-term status to CW-1 permit holders who have held such a permit since 2015. Sablan's proposal contains a pathways

to U.S. permanent residency.

When asked whether he would support the bill or not, Torres stated that he would do "whatever it takes to continue" supporting long-term status for CW-1 workers.

"I have always been in support of long-term status. I would be working with other [U.S. congressmen] as well as the Republic Party because it is a Republican leadership," he said.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who is the running mate of Torres for lieutenant governor, said that Sablan himself noted in his letter to Torres that the bill's passage through the current Congress is slim.

"We'll work with whoever is the delegate to make sure that happens... We submitted our recommendation to the U.S. President under the 902 agreement, which was then submitted to the U.S. Congress [then]. Had it been acted on two years ago, we wouldn't be talking about it today, but it is what it is and, at the end of the day, the governor and I are certainly in support of... alleviating labor shortage issues," he said.

PROPT

From Page 2

resources went into preparations that this event is in so many ways a labor of love for the Democratic Party and the principles for which it stands, and also for our community, our democracy, and the future we are striving to create, together."

"I'm excited by all the independent and Democratic candidates that are stepping up, where we share common values and ideas. There's a lot of momentum happening now. So I want to thank you, Democrats, for your efforts to rebuild the party, and for your efforts to build bridges with the independent candidates with whom you share common ground."



RE-ELECTION BID

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) filed Thursday last week his candidacy to seek a sixth term before Commonwealth Election Commission staff. Also in the photo are Sablan's wife, Andrea (partly hidden), committee-to-elect chair Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Sablan's advisor Juan Santiago Tenorio, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (standing behind), former Gov. Carlos Camacho (partly hidden in the back) and other supporters.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

FITIAL

From Page 1

re-registered, Fitia said he supports the Torres-Palacios tandem because he is a Republican.

Fitial said there's a lot of reasons why people should vote Torres-Palacios in the Nov. 6 general election.

"The economy is good. Under this administration, revenues are increasing,"

he added.

Fitial said retirees under the Settlement Fund continue to receive their pension.

"And that's a lot of people who are in that Settlement Fund. Almost 3,000 pensioners. We need to sustain that," he said.

Fitial predicts Torres-Palacios to win by a landslide over the independent team of former governor Juan N. Babauta and former education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Fitial pointed out that during the filing of the Republican Party's candidates yesterday morning, different sectors of the community were well-represented.

"That's a very good sign. That's a strong indicator of a good administration," the former governor said.

In May 2015, Fitial pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of service as part of a plea agreement with

the government.

On June 23, 2015, then-Supreme Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a one-year prison sentence on Fitial.

Wiseman ordered Fitial to pay a \$6,000 fine, and \$2,000 in restitution to the CNMI government. The former governor has already paid the amounts.

Fitial was supposed to start serving his prison term on July 6, 2015, but then-governor Eloy S. Inos commuted the sentence.

Demapan says he is the underdog in this race

Rep. Angel A. Demapan claimed the title of “underdog” in yesterday’s filing of candidacies, saying that incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan’s claim that he (Sablan) is the underdog in this Nov. 6 general election is a “complete false statement.”

“[I am the] underdog. I’m running against a five-term congressman,” said Demapan yesterday morning, shortly after he filed his candidacy as a Republican Party candidate for the delegate’s position.

Demapan, 36, said all he has is the grassroots community and younger voters.

“I am not backed by prominent business people. I am backed by grassroots. I am backed by the new generation of voters,” he added.

In an interview last week during his filing of candidacy, Sablan said he considers himself an underdog as he is running against a popular political party this time.

Sablan said the Republican Party has the money and that he does not have the money.

But Demapan pointed out that a look at campaign finances shows that Sablan has raised more money than his (Demapan’s) campaign.

“So, really, money creates the underdog? Clearly, I am the underdog,” Demapan said.

The young lawmaker said one of the biggest factors in his decision to run for the delegate seat is driven by the people.

He said he is doing a lot of work in the House of Representatives and that he feels that can still continue to serve in the House. However, Demapan said, he received mounting support and encouragement from people to make a run for delegate.

He underscored the need to build a stronger and better relationship with the federal government.

“We need more benefits and be treated as all other Americans in America are treated

and not be treated differently just because we are Americans living in a territory,” he said.

Demapan believes the Covenant that established CNMI’s political union with the U.S. should be upheld.

“And the very fact that the Covenant established the political union is just that—a political union,” said Demapan, adding that there is a need to fight for equal treatment and to fight for a more effective representation in Congress.

He noted that 10 years ago, CNMI was able to get a seat in Congress and that the

Commonwealth had so much hopes for the future because the CNMI finally had a voice in Congress.

“But 10 years later, look at the situation. Thankfully President Trump signed the Workforce Act into law. But the question is, why did we wait for the 11th hour?” Demapan said. “Although we’re able to now breathe a sigh of relief, the fact of the matter is some businesses had closed because we talked too long, U.S. action took too long.”

Demapan said thousands of nonresident workers left the

Commonwealth before the signing of the Workforce Act into law.

“The lateness in getting things done in Washington separated families here, affected businesses, affected our economy,” he said.

What concerns him, Demapan said, is every time CNMI loses a nonresident worker in a business, the Commonwealth also loses a resident worker.

“Because it affects the income, the delivery of goods and services. It is just not about our nonresident workers but it’s also our U.S. resident workers,” he said.

Demapan emphasized the importance to stabilize the economy and keep it going in order to protect both local and nonresident workers.

“Right now, thankfully the Workforce Act is now law. But all that means is we got 10 years,” he said.

Demapan said the delegate should take a pro-active approach in Congress and not be complacent so the CNMI will be prepared 10 years from now.

“We cannot just allow our representation to sit idle in Washington and then when it’s election time and an opponent is declared, the work begins. The work should have begun from day one in office,” Demapan added. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*

CUC eyes other sources of funds for water, wastewater projects

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues to look for other sources of funding for water and wastewater related projects, according to CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok.



Sirok

In CUC’s status report filed in federal court yesterday, Sirok disclosed that CUC has been able to acquire funds from the U.S. Economic Development Authority for a sewer line project in Lower Base.

Sirok said CUC is still in the application process for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a project related to the installation of filters for two wells within Commonwealth Ports Authority premises. The wells, he said, have been closed because of contaminants.

Sirok said CUC’s continued positive progress on Stipulated Order 1 matters is directly related to the federal grant funding provided to CUC from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

“These funds have been used for specifically identified SO1 projects and for projects otherwise identified on a priority basis in accordance with planning developed and mandated SO1 to repair and maintain CUC’s water and wastewater infrastructure,” he said.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater issues and the restructuring of CUC’s

organization.

Sirok is happy to report that all SO1 upper management

positions required to be filled under SO1 have been filled.

He said CUC hired Seong Kim as its chief engineer to replace the vacancy created when John Riegel resigned.

Sirok also disclosed that 17 wells are now back in operation as part of CUC’s effort to provide 24-hour drinking water service to Saipan.

CUC has reported that approximately 96 percent of Saipan has 24-hour water service.

CUC has also reported that non-revenue water loss has been fluctuating up and down between 62 percent and 75 percent as water pressure in water lines has increased due to increased pumping from water wells.

Sirok said the increase pumping has provided CUC with the ability to fill several water tanks servicing the various island’s water lines to over 75 percent capacity on a daily basis.

He said CUC also discovered instances of water theft and referred these cases to the CNMI Attorney General’s Office for action. However, Sirok said, to date CUC is not aware of any prosecutions of water theft cases.

Last February, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter disclosed the discovery of massive water fraud taking place on Saipan, citing an unaccounted loss of thousands of gallons of water per day.

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IT&E partners with local businesses, groups



IT&E presents a donation to Opake Guam on July 31 in support of Skate and Create 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HARMON, Guam—IT&E partnered with local lifestyle brand Opake Guam to bring Skate and Create 2018 to the Dededo Skate Park. The event featured a skateboarding com-

petition and showcased local street art. “We’re really excited to work with the Opake team and the local artists who have organized an event that creates

a space for our kids and teens to pursue their hobbies safely,” said Angela Rosario, director of product and marketing at IT&E. Other efforts and events

IT&E supported in July include Guam’s 74th Liberation Day Parade to celebrate the resiliency and history of Guam; the Shoyoroll & Friends Brazilian Jiu Jitsu open mat event,

IT&E presents a donation of \$1,200 to members of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

which brought star athletes to Guam to mentor young athletes; the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands’ 17th Annual Charity Golf Tournament with a donation of \$1,200; Saipan’s Marianas Outrigger Club to aid in their efforts to represent the CNMI at the Micronesia Games with

a \$500 donation; and the inaugural Marianas Classic Golf Tournament, which was done in partnership with IP&E and Bank of Guam to benefit Make-A-Wish Foundation CNMI and Guam, the Marianas Islands Natural Alliance, and the Autism Society of the CNMI. *(IT&E)*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-BECQ-125
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 24, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
**“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AND COASTAL QUALITY (TINIAN BRANCH)”**
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-21, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OPD-126
SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 31, 2016 TIME: 09:00 A.M.
“OFFICE SPACE FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)”
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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY CONTACT MR. ASCHUMAR KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG, DIRECTOR OF OPD, VIA EMAIL TO: Kodep.uludong@gov.mp. NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **AUGUST 10, 2018.**
THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-223, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL ADS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ASCHUMAR KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD



Vince “Bear” Quitagua, Shoyroll, owner and organizer of Shoyoroll & Friends Event at the Guam Museum.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP18-CHCC/CGC-009
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 13, 2018 TIME: 11:00AM
**“STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP
FOR SUCCESS” COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER
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COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.
/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. JAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Palacios, Torres submit candidacy papers with GOP bets

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Both incumbent Ralph DLG Torres and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who are gunning for the two highest offices in the CNMI government, filed their petitions for candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission Office in Susupe

yesterday, together with the other candidates on the CNMI Republican Party slate.

Torres said his partnership with Palacios got started even way back when they first met at the House of Representatives of the 16th Legislature.

"I've had a good relationship with the Senate president. When I first got into office, he was the House speaker, and he

Apatang files candidacy for 2nd term

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang filed yesterday his candidacy papers with the Commonwealth Election Commission as a Republican bet, to seek a second four-year term as mayor.

In an interview shortly after he filed his candidacy, Apatang said the people of Saipan gave him the opportunity to work for them these three and a half years.

Apatang said he would love to continue serving the people of Saipan and proceed with the program to "make the island beautiful for tourists to come and enjoy."

He said he wants to work with government agencies, the governor and the Legislature

so they can accomplish a lot these coming years.

"I pray to God that the people will consider me again," the mayor said, adding that he is confident that the people believe in him. "I have worked for them. And I showed them what we can do with my people here, with limited number of staff that I have, we work hard for our people of the island of Saipan," he said.

Apatang was an independent candidate when he ran for mayor in November 2014 and won by a big margin over three other contenders.

This Nov. 6 general election, Apatang's contender so far is Board of Parole chair Ramon B. Camacho (Ind). Camacho was the second highest vote-getter for the mayoral race in the November 2016 election.



JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth left, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, third left, join Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Rep. Angel A. Demapan, and the GOP Precinct 3 candidates in yesterday's filing of candidacy at the Commonwealth Election Commission's office. Others in photo are, from left, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz, Ralph Yumul, Rep. Don Barcinas, Rep. B.J. Attao, Rep. Joe Itibus, and Rep. Ivan Blanco.

gave me chairmanship over the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee. Since then, I have had a very good working relationship with him," said Torres, adding that he and Palacios "shared the same passion and commitment" when they began communicating for the upcoming elections.

"It was only fitting; the both of us decided naturally that we would make good partners," said Torres.

Torres pointed out that so

far, the CNMI has been doing very well. He noted several key improvements, such as a reduction in the government's deficit to about 57 percent; prioritizing the Retirement Fund; Public School System funding increases; Commonwealth Health Center and Department of Public Safety equipment procurement; police officer salary raises; and many others.

"...Our platform is to continue...prioritizing our current priorities," he said.

Long-term goals, according to Palacios, include sustaining the economy to make it "work across the board."

"...Even the little person in our villages [can] benefit," Palacios said. "We will continue to make sure that public services...will benefit...our people and our children," he added.

Palacios recalled of times five years ago, when the priorities were "who not to cut." Today, those priorities are "how to move ahead and how

to make sure we elevate the lives of our people," he said.

"The first thing that we need to continue to do is sustain this economy that Governor Torres and the late governor Eloy Inos plotted and the legislature [pushed for]," said Palacios, adding that criticisms are part of the job. "At the end of the day, I sleep well because I know that our people are being helped one way or the other and that the highest priority is that we continue to do that across the board."

Meet Josie:

Josie Masangcay is a Registered Nurse at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Josie works with our most delicate babies in the NICU. She especially encourages moms whose babies are in the NICU to breastfeed in order to help with their growth and development and fight infections. If baby is unable to latch, she helps mom use an electric pump to store breastmilk for when baby is ready to eat.

Thank you Josie for helping raise the breastfeeding rates in the CNMI!



"I promote breastfeeding because human breast milk is free, contains the necessary nutrients and antibodies a baby need, and helps strengthen the bond between mom and baby."



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35th Agricultural Fair



Local bands perform at the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



The pigs rest inside their cages during the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



A variety of root crops—sweet potato and taro, among others—are on display at the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Visitors check out the variety of crops displayed inside the Guma Sakman at the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe to showcase farm production.



The Northern Marianas College-CREES booth waits for visitors during the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Chickens and roosters are on display at the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Despite the gloomy weather, the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe still managed to draw a sizeable crowd.



The number of visitors starts to build up at the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Pigeons are also on display at the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Tropical plants are showcased at the 35th Agricultural Fair last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Orsini seeks BOE post



Andrew L. Orsini file his candidacy papers with the Commonwealth Election Commission last Friday. Orsini intends to run for the Board of Education this general election on Nov. 6, 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Andrew L. Orsini has officially declared his candidacy for the one vacant seat in the State Board of Education Saipan, for this upcoming general election on Nov. 6, 2018.

Orsini filed papers with the Commonwealth Election Commission last week Friday.

Orsini, the former human resource manager of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., seeks to "advance and broaden the educational pursuits for all the CNMI students who will be the next generational leaders in our great Commonwealth."

"In this highly technological era, preparing our children for the challenges in the world labor market is very competitive," said Orsini in a statement yesterday. "We need to improvise and harness in our children's education and beginning right here at home."

Orsini said the CNMI has been good to him and his family, and he wants to

contribute and give back to the community by helping CNMI children educationally, prepare them for their future and in the world labor market.

His campaign slogan is "A Better Education for a Better Economy."

With the passage of a federal law that has extended the foreign worker program for 10 more years, believes that PSS should prepare transitioning students by establishing and building "our own local labor workforce."

"Ten more years is a very short time" and Orsini believes the CNMI should collaborate with the Department of Labor, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Northern Marianas College, and other private industries.

"It is through this type of concerted effort that our own locally grown labor workforce will be made and be readily available by the time our dependence on foreign labor in the Commonwealth has ceased," he said. *(PR)*

Senate version of budget in the works

The vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs noted that the Senate version of the fiscal year 2019 budget is currently in the works.

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) said the Senate's legal counsel is still working on the recommended drafts.

"So, until the legal counsel completes the recommended drafts, then the committee will act on the budget," he said in an interview. "As soon as the legal counsel is done, and when the two gentlemen [senators] from Tinian come back, then we can [continue] work on the budget."

Committee chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) were off-island at the time of the interview.

Quitugua did not share any

of the changes to the budget, but he mentioned that the committee expressed a desire to amend the budgets allocated to the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the islands of Rota and Tinian.

"We are including sections that we believe were not included in the House version," said Quitugua.

The House, through Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), introduced House Bill 20-173 or the fiscal year 2019 budget proposal, which amounted to over \$167 million in amounts available for allocation, on June 6, 2018. Demapan also chairs the House Committee on Ways and Means.

The bill passed at the House on first and final reading. *(Erwin Encinares)*

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund would like to announce that Pacifica Insurance, general agent for Aetna International will be available for health insurance open enrollment at the following locations, dates and times:

- **Rota, Mayor's Office:** August 6 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
August 7 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am and 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- **Tinian, Mayor's Office:**
August 8 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am and 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- **Saipan, Multi-purpose Center:**
August 9 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

For questions please contact the Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund at 670-664-1100.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Facebook can't be the only one policing democracy

Facebook has finally taken steps to combat efforts to interfere in U.S. elections.

But will it be enough?

Facebook disclosed last week that it removed 32 pages and fake accounts that were engaged in efforts to meddle in the 2018 midterm elections.

Facebook's disclosure is further proof of efforts by outside groups to sow discord and doubt in U.S. elections. And it is yet another wake-up call to lawmakers to do more—now—to combat the interference.

After all, removing 32 pages from Facebook is a tiny blip in the broad and aggressive response needed to fight the misinformation war and preserve our democracy. Two years ago, Facebook looked the other way as Russian agents disseminated inflammatory posts that reached 126 million users during the presidential election campaigns.

In February, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats told the Senate Intelligence Committee that “the United States is under attack.” He said Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea posed the greatest cyber threats along with terrorist and criminal organizations. Coats added that Russia was likely to continue to target U.S. elections to “undermine democracy.”

Sadly, President Donald Trump's lack of clear leadership makes it difficult for intelligence agencies to mount a coordinated effort to counter the interference.

Congressional leaders have no clear idea what to do beyond lip service. As Washington dithers, it is up to others to guard against the misinformation war.

Facebook and other social-media giants must do more to police their networks by investing in tools that identify bogus news, increasing accountability and reducing incentives to profit from disinformation. But without any clear rules or regulations from lawmakers, the companies are unlikely to go beyond the minimum to protect their bottom lines.

Likewise, state and local education officials should make it a priority to promote news literacy and teach basic civics, including voting, and the importance of preserving basic American ideals that have set us apart from the rest of the world, such as freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary.

A recent survey by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center found that roughly one-third of respondents could not name any rights guaranteed under the First Amendment and only 26 percent could name all three branches of government.

To be sure, the media have a responsibility to provide fair and accurate reporting. At the same time, individuals have a responsibility to stay informed, engaged, and skeptical of fringe information providers.

Facebook's recent steps are encouraging. But this is a long fight that requires action by government, schools, businesses, and individuals—anyone, in fact, interested in preserving democracy.

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We impostors and blowhards

Many of us secretly believe we're fakes.

One of the reasons for this might be because well-meaning people give us credit where credit is not due, assuming we know things we don't. Being human, we're loath to correct flattering assumptions.

For example, I've taught English for 31 years and lots of nice folks assume I'm a good speller. I'm not. I had to double-check "loath" to make sure there wasn't an E at the end.

I compensated: I learned to rely on dictionaries. Less nobly, I also learned to rely on relationships based on whether my companion knew when to apply the "I before E except after C" rule.

I dated a guy for two years because he knew how to spell "beige."

When spell-checking rode in on new technologies and rescued me from a lifetime of seriously tedious relationships, I was more grateful than Snow White and Cinderella combined. No ordinary prince would have been a less judgmental proofreader.

I attempt to hide my flaws rather than lie about them. I'd never willingly play Scrabble or pretend to help somebody with a crossword puzzle. But if somebody wants to assume I'm competent, I don't tell them otherwise. (Until now, of course.)

There's reason to believe that many of us know we're kidding ourselves: 90 percent of us think we're impostors. Of the 10 percent who don't think they're impostors, 8 percent suffer from a combination of grandiosity and narcissistic personality disorder.

The 2 percent who are genuinely brilliant, original, competent and erudite pretty much keep to themselves.

And despite the fact that I just made up those statistics, I am nevertheless certain they're accurate.

And that's why we worry about being fakes: We know how much to make up and pass off as real. We invent information and present it as evidence based.

If we speak with sufficient authority, we might just get away with it.

It's terrifying: After all, if we're able to do this to others, then what are others doing to us?

Folks who most capture my imagination are the ones who have fully and authentically convinced themselves that they have a comprehensive vision of whatever subject is under discussion.

Some of my favorites are politicians, commentators and bon vivants who lecture without so much as stopping for a breath on every subject, despite knowing almost nothing.

Not only do they consider themselves experts on every subject, they also—with savage, glittering smugness—regard everyone else an amateur.

By **GINA BARRECA**
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of *If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse?* and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



These types often preface their sermons by saying, "In my humble opinion." And yes, I know that the PBS "NewsHour" has a segment titled "IMHO."

Having watched many of the offerings, I believe they also illustrate precisely why the phrase should set the warning lights in motion.

People who use the phrase "in my humble opinion" are rarely humble and don't consider their palaver opinions but instead see it as unalterable facts.

It's important to know the difference between what you know and what you only believe you know.

For example, I have opinions about the differences between good and bad cholesterol, about whether Pluto should still be a planet, whether St. Christopher should be a saint and whether fresh oysters are alive or dead when you eat them.

Millions of people, however, know a lot more about each of these subjects than I do, rendering their perspectives far more useful than my own—but I have trouble deciding which of them I should most trust.

If I'm being honest, I trust the whole of the Roman Catholic Church less than I trust in poor St. Christopher, in part because the entire Roman Catholic Church is hard to stick onto my dashboard. It's probably not good theology, but to me it makes sense.

Part of being a reasonable and responsible adult is having a firm fix on where the stories you tell about yourself stop and where the real you begins.

To stop feeling like a fake, you have to know what you know and face what you don't.

Admitting the slippages, the gaps and the chasms in your own understanding and accepting that opinions are not the same things as facts can move you from being a poser to a person. Being who you are is not something you want to fake.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The struggles of CHCC

By **JUAN NEKAI BABAUTA**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

On Jan. 15, 2009, then-governor Benigno R. Fitial signed House Bill 16-9 into Public Law 16-51. The purpose of P.L. 16-51 is “to establish a public corporation for healthcare and related public health services known as the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation.”

On Oct. 24, 2011, a little more than two years and 10 months later, the CHCC was formally established with the appointment of a board of trustees and a chief executive officer. The government retains control and oversight of the public corporation through legislative processes and oversight; the corporation operates independently to serve the public purposes as articulated in the enabling legislation.

CHCC faced many problems in its first year. There were four major problems in the first year of operations: 1) Finances, 2) Lack of planning for the CHCC, 3) Inexperience of the management team to deal with the magnitude of the financial shortfalls and the problems resulting from a lack of planning for the CHCC before it became operational on Oct. 24, 2011, 4) Finding of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid of several already existing Immediate Jeopardy threats to patient care and patient safety.

The start-up problems of CHCC were directly attributable to the lack of financial resources. If monies were available, there would not have been any delayed payroll payments to clinicians and other CHCC employees. With money, CHCC would have been able to purchase an abundance of medical supplies, laboratory reagents, and pharmaceuticals. CHCC, with money, would have been able to repair equipment and/or purchase new equipment which the CMS had already identified as Immediate Jeopardy concerns. Additionally, CHCC would have been able to pay vendors, including paying the millions due to vendors from when CHCC was the Department of Public Health. In fact, if monies were readily available then, CHCC would not have inherited a billing and collection staff which was placed on “austerity,” which in turn led to a backlog of bills to insurers, including the CMS Medicare and Medicaid programs. The billing backlog inherited by the CHCC was at least over 2 years old. The CNMI government was well aware of the critical financial situation the CHCC was facing.

The reality was that the Legislature of the CNMI provided \$5 million in seed capital for CHCC. However, that \$5 million was not immediately available so the amount of \$200,000 was paid monthly to CHCC. The amount for payroll alone every two weeks was nearly \$2 million. This meant that there was \$0.0 in the bank at the inception of the CHCC. Then-Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and who was acting governor understood the situation and provided funding to make one payroll. However, the absence of funding plunged the CHCC into a “valley of despair.”

The establishment of a public corporation requires considerable planning. Unfortunately, when CHCC was inaugurated on Oct. 24, 2012, the lack of planning for CHCC became evident. The lack of transition planning, coupled with the financial difficulties of the CNMI government, made for a

challenging implementation of CHCC as a new corporation. No articles of incorporation were prepared. No draft by-laws for the operation of the board were prepared. Applications for designation of CHCC as a provider of healthcare services for Medicare and Medicaid were prepared. There was no financial assessment or plans were put in place either by the administration or the Legislature. There was no statement of beginning balances, cash, assets, liabilities, and other financial information. The chairman of the Committee on Health of the CNMI Legislature was Rep. Ralph Torres, who held the same position as senator.

In the first year of operation of CHCC, the financial condition was so dire that the board of trustees ordered the closure of the lone public dental clinic located at hospital and staffed by at least 15 employees. On the day, CHCC sought the assistance of the Legislature for funding support. I personally invited members of the Legislature, including the chairman of the Committee on Health, Ralph Torres, for a tour of the hospital and to meet with the staff, including the medical staff. Rep. Ralph Torres never showed up nor expressed concern over the impending closure of the dental clinic.

In that same year, the board of trustees, due to the dire financial condition of CHCC also ordered the closure of the Community Guidance Center that was providing essential services to patients. CHCC invited the chairman of the Committee on Health for a tour of the hospital and the Community Guidance Center with the intention of requesting legislative support. Rep. Ralph Torres was a no-show. Two other members of the Legislature did show up and CHCC appreciated their attendance.

Going into the second year of operation of the CHCC, the board of trustees was in discussion of separating the operations and services of the public health component from the hospital. It was a proposal that as CEO I did not support. The situation placed the CEO and the board at odds. For the third time, the CHCC invited Sen. Ralph Torres for a meeting at CHCC in order to discuss not just the separation of public health from the hospital but the critical financial condition CHCC was in. Sen. Ralph Torres showed no interest and was a no-show at the meeting despite the repeated invitations extended to him.

Despite the unwillingness of the Legislature to bail out CHCC from its critical financial condition, CHCC decided to move forward by turning to the Marianas Public Land Trust for a temporary loan in the amount of \$3 million. MPLT, after much deliberation and justification by CHCC for a loan, approved it. CHCC also sought the assistance of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Through a collective team effort, the State Medicaid Agency, Region IX of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the CHCC, there was an increase in the Medicaid funding based on the CMS approved use of the CPE Methodology. The CPE Methodology, as provided for in the rules and regulations for Medical Assistance Program, enables the appropriations to the CHCC, loans to the CHCC (e.g. MPLT loan), and other authorized funding, which when expended, to count as the local match for Medicaid funding. To date, the Legislature has not appro-

By **JUAN NEKAI BABAUTA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



priated funding specifically as match required by Medicaid of the 45:55 match.

Enrollment of Eligible Medicare Patients into the Part B Medical Insurance Program helped improved the financial condition of the hemodialysis services. CHCC provides hemodialysis services on an outpatient basis to over 100 patients per month. CHCC determined that there were at least 10 patients that were enrolled in the Part A program for hospital services but not enrolled in the Medicare Part B program, even though the patients were eligible for participation. The participation in the Medicare Part B requires the patient to pay a premium. The over 10 patients which were identified were enrolled in the Medicare Part B increased the amount of reimbursements for hemodialysis services from about \$700,000 to \$840,000 a year.

When CHCC was inaugurated on Oct. 24, 2011, starting on that date, CHCC owed in excess of \$5 million to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Analysis conducted on the cost of utilities included electric power, water, wastewater, solid waste, and telecommunications. These were prior years cost the Legislature refused to provide funds for despite repeated requests by the heads of the Department of Health prior to becoming CHCC.

During its first year CHCC initiated plans to upgrade the CT scanner from a single slice to a 16-slice scanner. The 16-slice scanner enables a clinician to pinpoint tumors for radiotherapy, provides detailed images of torn kidney or bone injury, and the like. Repeated request for funding submitted to the Legislature to purchase this critically needed machine were ignored.

CHCC had a 30-year-old boiler which was leaking from prior years. CHCC immediately responded in 2012 to this problem since it would have caused a shutdown of the hospital. Through an emergency purchase and with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, CHCC procured and installed a new \$2 million boiler. Requests submitted to the Legislature to fund the boiler were ignored and not responded to.

In 2012 the Kagman Community Health Center was awarded a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to become a “community health center” in accordance with Section 330 of the U.S. Public Health Service Act. Through the award of about \$608,333, the Kagman Community Health Center was established. CHCC now provides clinical and administrative support to KCHC.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Aug. 6, 2018, was an extremely exciting day for all CNMI Republican Party candidates from Rota, Tinian and Saipan. We have been waiting for this day to come. It is the submission day of our candidacy petition to the board of election for certification. Joel C. Camacho and I are now official Republican Party candidates representing Precinct IV.

Joel and I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the over 100 Precinct IV supporters who came to support, witness and guide us in the submission of our candidate petitions and certification. There were over 500 Republican supporters who showed up for the submission of the petitions.

To our Precinct IV chairman, Director Anthony Camacho, and

the precinct club members and our Committee-to-Elect chairman, Mr. Bruce Camacho, and the members, Joel and I wholeheartedly extend our sincere appreciation for the support and effort in making sure that our petitions are completed on time. We will be remiss if we do not extend our appreciation to all the supporters who signed our petitions. Special thank you to you all. We must continue to be vigilant in our house-to-house effort. Thank you so much for your hard work!

Rep. Alice S. Igitol
House of Representatives
20th Legislature

Thanks to the House






I want to offer a sincere thanks to the House of Representa-

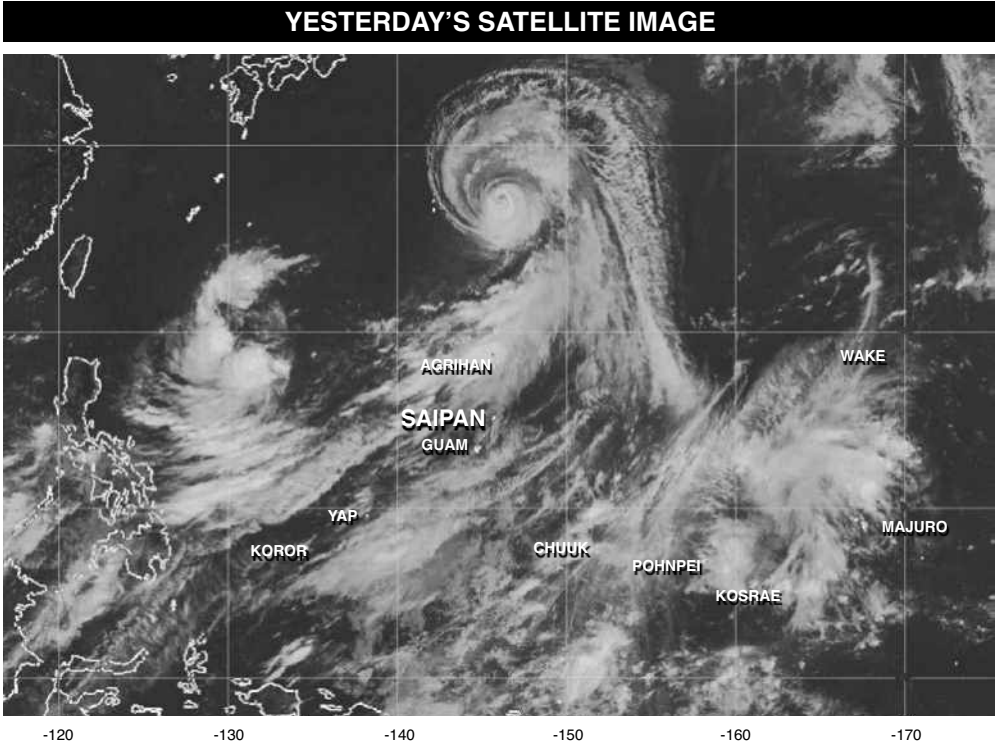
tives from myself and many others in the community for your efforts last week to expedite Senate Bill 20-62 for the legalization of marijuana. While there was a technical issue that requires revenue-generating bills to originate in the House, the offer by Rep. Joe Guerrero to re-introduce the bill as a House bill speaks volumes to the intent of the House leadership to expedite the bill.

It was very clear that an overwhelming majority of our representatives are in favor of the bill and it will surely pass as a House version. The need to make it a House bill is a minor setback. I am just glad the House did not sit on the bill; it only took two months for them to get it to the floor. A special thanks to Speaker Rafael Demapan and committee chair Ivan Blanco in expediting this bill through the process and getting it to the floor for a vote.

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. |
| ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |



PICTURE TIME: 7:20 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018

WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

Typhoon Shanshan continues to move away from the Marianas but southwesterly flow continues over the islands. As it does, we will experience moist flow through Tuesday, before some drying moves in. An area of showers and thunderstorms, mainly to the west of the islands, is evident on radar, and showers are being reported at Saipan. Have opted to go with scattered coverage for Saipan and Tinian this morning and isolated elsewhere. Expect 10 to 20 mph wind today and tonight before a decrease Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 86° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 87° / 77° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 87° / 77° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Rain | 59° / 52° |
| Beijing | Thunderstorms | 86° / 75° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 91° / 82° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 76° |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 61° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 95° / 73° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Rain | 57° / 43° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 87° / 80° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 89° / 77° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 97° / 81° |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | 97° / 64° |
| Busan | Sunny | 90° / 79° |
| Rome | Sunny | 93° / 73° |
| Salem | Thunderstorms | 93° / 72° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 63° / 53° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 93° / 79° |
| Tokyo | Showers | 86° / 79° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 93° / 75° |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------|
| 2:31 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.88 |
| 10:00 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.05 |
| 5:02 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.62 |
| 9:55 PM | LOW TIDE | 1.12 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:00 AM | 6:44 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:00 AM | 6:44 PM |
| Thursday | 6:01 AM | 6:43 PM |
| Friday | 6:01 AM | 6:43 PM |
| Saturday | 6:01 AM | 6:42 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | 1:26 AM | 2:35 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 2:20 AM | 3:36 PM | - |
| Thursday | 3:20 AM | 4:39 PM | - |
| Friday | 4:23 AM | 5:40 PM | - |
| Saturday | 5:28 AM | 6:38 PM | - |

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| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 8:45am | 9:30am | Daily | UA117 | 7:00am | 7:45am | Daily |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 7C3451 | 3:10am | 6:10am | 1, 7 | 7C3452 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4 |
| 7C3451 | 4:00am | 7:05am | 4, 5 | 7C3452 | 9:05pm | 2:10am+1 | 3, 6, 7 |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 | 2:00am | 6:05am | Daily | 7C3402 | 9:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | TW307 | 7:45pm | 1:00am+1 | Daily |
| LJ652 | 3:40am | 7:30am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45am | 8:30am | Daily | LJ651 | 9:10pm | 2:40am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3401 | 4:00pm | 7:45pm | Daily | 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8648 | 5:40am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) | | | | HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN | | | |
| JD396 | 7:30am | 12:00pm | 1 | JD395 | 8:25am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 10:00pm | 4 | JD395 | 9:55pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 | 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | | | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | | | |
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 | MU763 | 4:25pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ626/701 | 2:10am | 10:55am | 1 via ICN | UA182/6395 | 12:40am | 8:05am | 3, 6 via GUM |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 10:55am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | UA190/6397 | 9:55am | 5:35pm | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/191 | 4:15am | 9:00am | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM | OZ702/625 | 12:25pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 8:10am | 7 via GUM | OZ702/625 | 12:25pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM | PR110/UA6395 | 10:05pm | 8:05am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM | UA192/6395 | 10:30pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | UA184/6395 | 10:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6398/193 | 6:05pm | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) | | | | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| HX077 | 1:50am | 5:15am | 1, 4 | OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | HX076 | 5:15pm | 12:15am+1 | 3, 7 |
| U043 | 5:45am | 8:40am | 1, 3, 5, 7 | U042 | 6:50pm | 1:45am+1 | 7 |
| UA6398/159 | 6:05pm | 11:00pm | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM | U042 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| | | | | UA116/6395 | 11:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

ROTA TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

ROTA TO GUAM

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

GUAM TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |

| | | | |
|------|---------|---------|-------|
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

Jin Air commences summer charters to Marianas

Jin Air launched the first of 23 summer charter flights from Tokyo, Japan, to the Marianas on Aug. 1, 2018.

The flights depart daily from Narita International Airport at 10:15am and arrive at

the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 3pm.

All passengers aboard the inaugural flight were greeted with shell leis from the Marianas Visitors Authority, presented by young Chamorritas



On Aug. 1, 2018, the Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes passengers aboard the first of 23 anticipated summer charter flights by Jin Air from Narita International Airport to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. **MVA**



On Aug. 1, 2018, the Marianas Visitors Authority welcomes passengers aboard the first of 23 anticipated summer charter flights by Jin Air from Narita International Airport to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. **MVA**

dressed in traditional clothes.

"We're very happy to have Jin Air operating over 30 charter flights to the Marianas this summer," said acting MVA managing director Judy Torres. "The Japan market is still an important part of the MVA's market diversification

strategy, and we are looking forward to the recovery of this market in coming months.

The MVA welcomed travel agents from JTB and H.I.S. aboard the flight at an official welcoming dinner at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The MVA is expecting

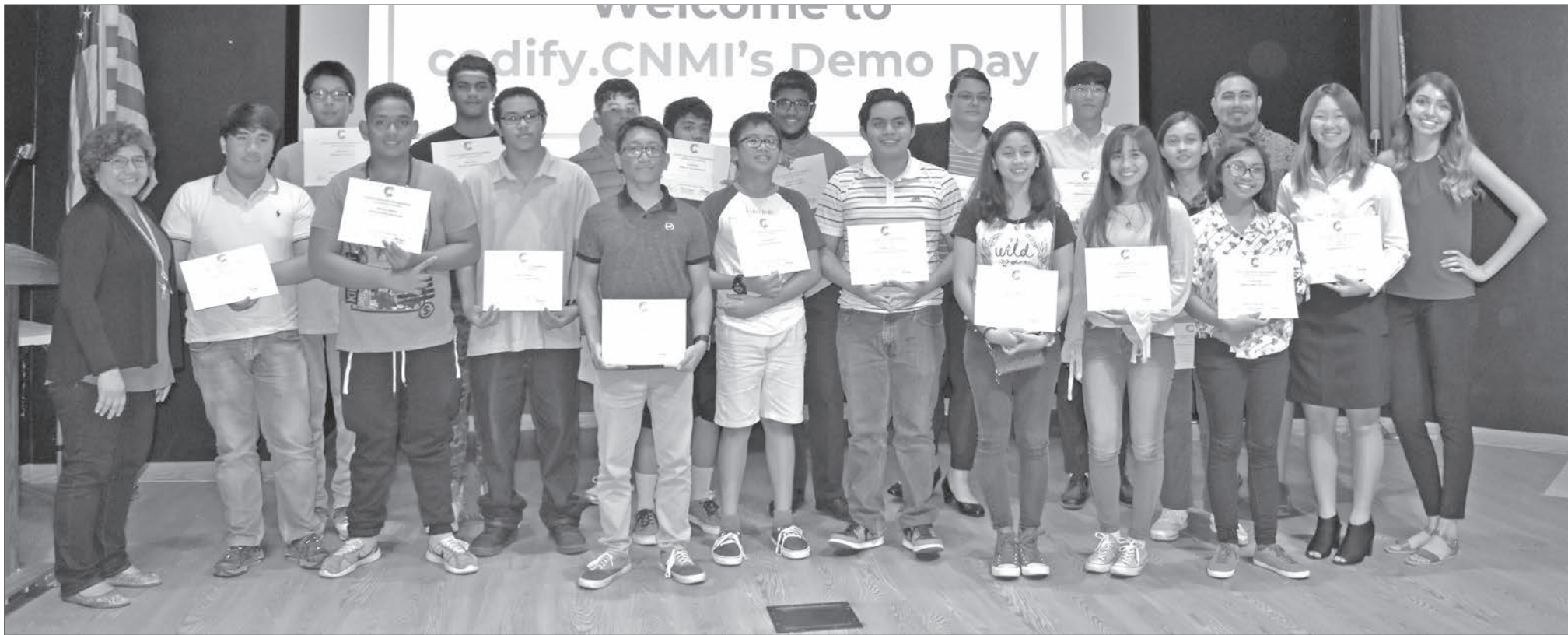


On Aug. 1, 2018, at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Gloria Cavanagh, standing center, and other local dignitaries welcome the travel agents from Jin Air's first summer charter flight from Tokyo, Japan, to Saipan. **MVA**

nearly 30 charter flights from Japan this summer, beginning a flight from Nagoya on July 13 by Jeju Air. In addition to Jin Air's anticipated 23 flights, Asiana Airlines will have flights from Narita on Aug. 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21. The combined total avail-

able air seats on the flights is over 5,700, a welcome boost following the cancellation of regular daily flights from Narita in May 2018.

The Marianas is also anticipating Skymark Airlines to begin daily flights from Tokyo in winter 2018. **(MVA)**



CODIFY.CNMI

CNMI State Public School System acting interim commissioner Jackie Quitugua, left, joins the students that participated in the five-week JavaScript coding language program, Codify.CNMI. PSS Science Program coordinator Asap Ogunmoro, back right, and JavaScript instructor Jailene Miranda-Enriquez, right, are also in the photo. **JON PEREZ**

What's up? The Marianas Calendar to tell all

The community is being invited to check out the Marianas Calendar, the first comprehensive online calendar of public events in the Marianas, newly relaunched at www.mymarianas.com.

"There's always something happening in the islands, and the Marianas Calendar will now allow event planners to better publicize their events to both residents and visitors. Anyone can post a public event, and everyone can click to see what's happening this week and in the month's ahead," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Broc Calvo.

The Marianas Calendar is part of the MVA's new English-language website launched

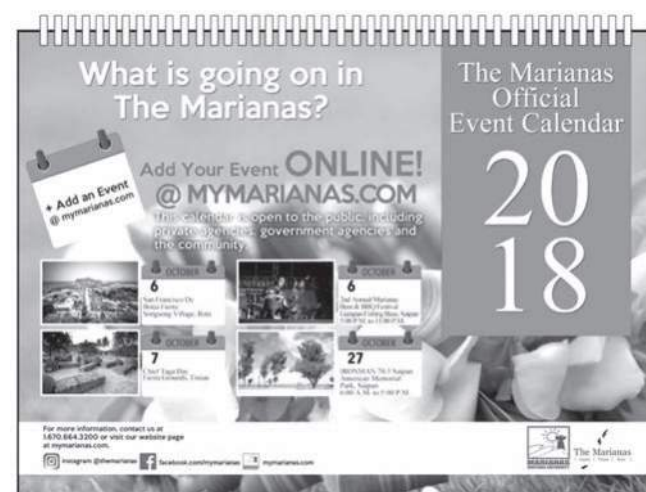


The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com is the new comprehensive online calendar of public events in the Marianas. The public is invited to post their events on the calendar. **MVA**

this month. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has also endorsed the calendar as the official online calendar for the posting of all government events and activities that the public is invited to participate in.

"One of the many beauties

of the Marianas is that there is always something to do for everyone, locals and visitors alike," said Torres. "The Marianas Calendar will be an important tool that everyone can access in order for tourists to plan out their visits



The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com is the new comprehensive online calendar of public events in the Marianas. **MVA**

and for our residents to stay informed about the exciting things happening around the Marianas. I commend MVA for their hard work on this tremendous undertaking."

"We're excited to be working with the other government departments and agencies to expand public awareness of their many services and agencies through The Marianas

Calendar," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Whether it be educational outreach on the environment, a health walk, a cultural exhibition, a fundraiser, a sporting event, or more, these are opportunities to both engage more locals and enrich the experience of visitors. Training, seminars, and other activities geared more toward the local population are also welcome. The Marianas Calendar is the new go-to online calendar for all events on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands, and we invite everyone to utilize the calendar post their upcoming events."

For more information, find The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. **(MVA)**

Business

Triumph of the iPhone: Apple cracks trillion-dollar mark

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple is the world's first publicly traded company to be valued at \$1 trillion, the financial fruit of stylish technology that has redefined what we expect from our gadgets.

The milestone reached Thursday marks the latest triumph of a trend-setting company that two mavericks named Steve started in a Silicon Valley garage 42 years ago.

Apple's shares gained \$5.89 to close at \$207.39, leaving the company's market value a notch above \$1 trillion—around \$1,001,679,220,000, according to FactSet. Apple sits atop a U.S. stock market that has become dominated by technology-centered companies: Amazon, Google's parent Alphabet, Microsoft and Facebook round out the top five in market value.

The achievement seemed unimaginable in 1997 when Apple teetered on the edge of bankruptcy, with its stock

trading for less than \$1, on a split-adjusted basis, and its market value dropping below \$2 billion.

To survive, Apple brought back its once-exiled co-founder, Steve Jobs, as interim CEO and turned to its archrival Microsoft for a \$150 million cash infusion to help pay its bills.

If someone had dared to buy \$10,000 worth of stock at that point of desperation, the investment would now be worth about \$2.6 million.

Jobs eventually shepherded a decade-long succession of iconic products such as iPhone that transformed Apple from a technological boutique to a cultural phenomenon and moneymaking machine.

The stock has been surging this week as anticipation mounts for the next generation of iPhone, expected to be released in September.

Although iPhone sales aren't rising as rapidly as they were a few years ago, Apple

has been adding enough new features to persuade consumers to pay higher prices for its top-of-the line devices. In its most recent quarter, Apple fetched an average price of \$724 per iPhone—a nearly 20 percent increase from an average of \$606 per iPhone at the same time last year.

The price escalation has widened Apple's profit margins to the delight of investors, who have boosted the company's market value by about \$83 billion—nearly equal to the entire market value of American Express—since the

quarterly report came out late Tuesday. The 9 percent gain was Apple's biggest two-day advance in nearly a decade.

Apple's stock has climbed by 23 percent so far this year, compared to a 6 percent gain for the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

The recent rally in Apple's stock contrasts sharply from a deep downturn in the fortunes of two social media companies, Facebook and Twitter that offer some of the most popular apps used on iPhones and other mobile devices. User growth and engagement on Facebook and Twitter has

been wavering amid deepening concerns about their ability to protect people's personal information and shield them from misinformation and other abuses that have been infecting their services.

As mighty as Apple may seem now, economic and cultural forces can quickly shift the corporate pecking order.

Consider the plight of Exxon Mobil, which was the most valuable U.S. company five years ago. Now, it ranks as the ninth most valuable, surpassed by Apple and a list consisting primarily on companies im-

mersed in technology.

Some analysts believe e-commerce leader Amazon.com will supplant Apple as the world's most valuable company in the next year or two as its spreading tentacles reach into new markets.

Pompeo says sanctions a pillar of US policy toward Iran

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said renewed U.S. sanctions on Iran will be rigorously enforced and remain in place until the Iranian government radically changes course.

Speaking to reporters aboard his plane on his way home from a three-nation trip to Southeast Asia, Pompeo said Monday's re-imposition of sanctions is an important pillar in U.S. policy toward Iran. He said the Trump administration is open to looking beyond



Pompeo

sanc-tions but that would "require enormous change" from Tehran.

"We're hopeful that we can find a way to move forward but it's going to require enormous change on the part of the Iranian regime," he said Sunday. "They've got to behave like a normal country. That's the ask. It's pretty simple."

Pompeo called the Iranian leadership "bad actors" and said President Donald Trump is intent on getting them to "behave like a normal country."

A first set of U.S. sanctions that had been eased by the Obama administration under the terms of the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal will take effect again on Monday, following Trump's May decision to withdraw from the accord. Those sanctions target Iran's automotive sector as well as gold and other metals.

A second batch of U.S. targeting Iran's oil sector and central bank will be re-imposed in early November.

Pompeo noted that the U.S. has long designated Iran as the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism and said it cannot expect to be treated as an equal in the international community until it halts such activities.

China tightens controls to slow currency's fall

BEIJING (AP)—China has tightened controls on trading in its yuan in a possible effort to stop a decline against the U.S. dollar that has raised the danger of an outflow of capital from the world's second-largest economy.

Traders must post a 20 per-

cent deposit effective Monday for contracts to buy and sell yuan on a future date. That will raise the cost of betting the currency might fall further, which might help to discourage speculators.

Beijing allowed the yuan to fall by 8 percent against the

dollar since early February. That helps Chinese exporters that face U.S. tariff hikes by lowering the price of their goods in dollar terms. But it also could encourage investors to shift money out of China, raising financing costs for companies in the country.



VINTAGE PLANE CRASHES

Undated picture of a JU-52 aircraft of the JU-AIR in the air. A JU-52 of the JU-AIR crashed on Saturday afternoon at Piz Segnas above Flims, Switzerland. Swiss police say all 20 people aboard an old-time propeller plane were killed when the aircraft crashed into a mountainside in southeast Switzerland.

JU-AIR/KEystone VIA AP

Apple iPhone chip supplier says virus will delay shipments

A company that makes semiconductors for Apple iPhones says it is recovering from a virus outbreak but expects the incident to delay shipments and raise costs.

Taiwan Semiconductor Co. Ltd. said 80 percent of the fabrication tools affected by Friday's virus had been recovered by Sunday. TSMC expects full recovery on Monday.

The company didn't detail the impact on Apple or other customers. Apple Inc. did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

The semiconductor com-

pany blames the outbreak on a mistake during installation of software for a new tool, which was then connected to its computer network. It says confidential

information was not compromised.

The company says the incident will cut third-quarter revenue by about 3 percent. But it's confident it will get that back in the fourth quarter. (AP)

Nation

Trump appears to change story on meeting with Russian lawyer

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—President Donald Trump appears to have changed his story about a 2016 meeting at Trump Tower that is pivotal to the special counsel's investigation, tweeting that his son met with a Kremlin-connected lawyer to collect information about his political opponent.

"Fake News reporting, a complete fabrication, that I am concerned about the meeting my wonderful son, Donald, had in Trump Tower," Trump wrote in a Sunday tweet. "This was a meeting to get information on an opponent, totally legal and done all the time in politics - and it went nowhere. I did not know about it!"

That is a far different explanation than Trump gave 13 months ago, when a statement

dictated by the president but released under the name of Donald Trump Jr., read: "We primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children that was active and popular with American families years ago."

The misdirection came amid a series of searing tweets sent from his New Jersey golf club, in which he tore into two of his favorite targets, the news media and Robert Mueller's ongoing investigation into possible links between the president's campaign and Russia. Trump unleashed particular fury at reports that he was anxious about the Trump Tower meeting attended by Donald Trump Jr. and other senior campaign officials.

Trump's critics immediately pounced on the new story,

the latest of several versions of events about a meeting for which emails were discovered between the president's eldest son and an intermediary from the Russian government offering damaging information about Trump's opponent, Hillary Clinton. Betraying no surprise or misgivings about the offer from a hostile foreign power, Trump Jr. replied: "If it's what you say I love it especially later in the summer."

Sunday's tweet was Trump's clearest statement yet on the purpose of the meeting, which has become a focal point of Mueller's investigation even as the president and his lawyers try to downplay its significance and pummel the Mueller probe with attacks. On Sunday, Trump again suggested without evidence that

Mueller was biased against him, declaring, "This is the most one sided Witch Hunt in the history of our country."

And as Trump and his allies have tried to discredit the probe, a new talking point has emerged: that even if that meeting was held to collect damaging information, none was provided and "collusion"—Trump's go-to description of what Mueller is investigating—never occurred.

"The question is what law, statute or rule or regulation has been violated, and nobody has pointed to one," said Jay Sekulow, one of Trump's attorneys, on ABC's "This Week."

But legal experts have pointed out several possible criminal charges, including conspiracy against the United

States and aiding and abetting a conspiracy. And despite Trump's public Twitter denial, the president has expressed worry that his son may face legal exposure even as he believes he did nothing wrong, according to three people close to the White House familiar with the president's thinking but not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Sekulow acknowledged that the public explanation for the meeting has changed but insisted that the White House has been very clear with the special counsel's office. He said he was not aware of Trump Jr. facing any legal exposure.

"I don't represent Don Jr.," Sekulow said, "but I will tell you I have no knowledge at all

of Don Jr. being told that he's a target of any investigation, and I have no knowledge of him being interviewed by the special counsel."

Democrats hammered away at the president's admission.

"The Russians offered damaging info on your opponent. Your campaign accepted. And the Russians delivered," tweeted Rep. Adam Schiff, top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. "You then misled the country about the purpose of the Trump Tower meeting when it became public. Now you say you didn't know in advance. None of this is normal or credible."

Trump's days of private anger spilled out into public with the Twitter outburst, which comes at a perilous time for the president.

Oregon police chief orders review of use of force at protest

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Portland police were accused Sunday of being heavy-handed against people protesting a rally by extreme-right demonstrators, reportedly injuring some counter-protesters and prompting the city's new police chief to order a review of officers' use of force.

Police in riot gear tried to keep the two groups apart, many of whom had come on Saturday dressed for battle in helmets and protective clothing. Dozens of the extreme-right protesters were bussed to Portland, one of America's most liberal cities, from nearby Vancouver, Washington.

Saturday's clashes were the most recent of several this year in the city as right-wing militants converged, met by counter-protesters, including members of anti-fascist, or "antifa," groups. City officials have struggled with striking a balance between free speech and keeping events from spiraling out of control.

But on Saturday, some said police seemed to act mostly against those protesting the presence of the extreme-right demonstrators,



Police deploy flash bang grenades during a rally in Portland, Ore., Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018.

using stun grenades and what appeared to be rubber bullets against them.

Police "targeted Portland residents peacefully counter-protesting against racist far-right groups, including white supremacists, white nation-

alists, and neo-Nazi gangs," the Oregon chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and the Portland chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America said in a statement. It called on officials to investigate.

The head of the Oregon branch of the American Civil Liberties Union also criticized the way the Portland Police Bureau handled the demonstrations.

"The Portland Police Bureau's response to protest is

completely unacceptable in a free society," David Rogers said in a statement issued Sunday night. "The repeated use of excessive force, and the targeting of demonstrators based on political beliefs are a danger to the First Amendment

rights of all people. We call on the Portland Police Bureau, Mayor Wheeler, and Chief Outlaw to immediately end the use of weapons, munitions, and explosives against protesters."

Police ordered the counter-protesters to disperse, then moved in behind a volley of stun grenades. One of the rounds reportedly hit a counter-protester in the head, becoming embedded in his helmet and injuring him. One woman was taken to a hospital after being hit in the arm and chest with a "flash-bang" grenade, local media reported. The blasts echoed through downtown Portland.

Four people were arrested.

Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, who assumed command less than a year ago as Portland's first African-American female police chief, said in a statement Sunday she takes all use-of-force cases seriously.

Outlaw directed the professional standards division to begin gathering evidence to determine if the force used was within policy and training guidelines. The Office of Independent Police Review will be provided with the information for review and investigation.

5 killed when small plane crashes in California parking lot

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Ella Pham said it was a painful thing to see.

Pham, 20, and her boyfriend were walking in a parking lot Sunday when they saw a twin-engine Cessna crash, she told the Los Angeles Times.

"We looked up to see the plane falling nose first," she told the Times. "It was so heartbreaking just seeing the plane crumbled into pieces."

Five people on board the small airplane were killed but nobody on the ground was

hurt when the plane crashed in the Southern California parking lot, authorities said.

The pilot of the Cessna 414 declared an emergency before crashing about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from John Wayne Airport, Federal Aviation Ad-

ministration spokeswoman Arlene Salac said.

The plane was heading to the airport southeast of Los Angeles when it came down and struck an unoccupied parked car in the lot of a Staples store and a CVS pharmacy, Orange

County Fire Authority Captain Steve Concialdi said. There was no fire and nobody on the ground was hurt, he said.

Photos from the scene showed the plane upright but on its belly and the car damaged. Several roads surrounding the shopping center and the South Coast Plaza mall across the street were closed.

The plane is registered to the San Francisco-based real estate company Category III, according to an FAA database. A phone call to the company was not immediately returned Sunday.

The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the crash, Salac said.

Asia

91 dead in Indonesian island quake

By ROS IDIN and NINIEK KARMINI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATARAM, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck the Indonesian tourist island of Lombok, killing at least 91 people and shaking neighboring Bali, as authorities said Monday that rescuers still hadn't reached some hard-hit areas and the death toll could climb.

It was the second deadly quake in a week to hit Lombok. A July 29 quake killed 16 people and damaged hundreds of houses, some of which collapsed in Sunday evening's magnitude 7.0 temblor, killing those inside.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho told a news conference that damage was "massive" in the north of Lombok.

Some areas still hadn't been reached, with rescuers hampered by collapsed bridges, electricity blackouts and damaged roads blocked with debris.

Sutopo said the death toll had risen to 91 and more than 200 people were seriously injured. Thousands of homes and buildings were damaged.

The quake, measured at a magnitude of 7.0 by Indonesian authorities and a still-powerful 6.9 by the U.S. Geological Survey, struck early Sunday evening at a depth of 10.5 kilometers (6 miles) in the northern part of Lombok.

Video showed screaming people running in panic from houses in a Bali neighborhood and vehicles rocking. On Lombok, soldiers and other rescuers carried injured people on stretchers and carpets to evacuation centers. Many victims were treated outdoors because hospitals were damaged.

"People panicked and scattered on the streets, and buildings and houses that had been damaged by the previous



Houses damaged by an earthquake are seen in North Lombok, Indonesia, Monday, Aug. 6, 2018. The powerful earthquake struck the Indonesian tourist island of Lombok, killing a number of people and shaking neighboring Bali, as authorities on Monday said thousands of houses were damaged and the death toll could climb.

earthquake had become more damaged and collapsed," Sutopo said.

The quake triggered a tsunami warning and frightened people poured out of their homes to move to higher ground, particularly in North Lombok and Mataram, the capital of West Nusa Tenggara province. The warning was lifted on Sunday after only small waves were recorded.

"I was watching TV when I felt a big shake," said Harian, a Lombok woman who gave one name. "The lamp was shaking, and people were shouting 'Get out.' I ran out into the dark because the power cut off."

On Gili Trawangan, one of three popular vacation islands near Lombok, thousands of

tourists and locals spent the night on a hill fearing a tsunami, said British visitor Safron Amis.

"There was a lot of screaming and crying, particularly from the locals," said Amis, from Brighton. "We spoke to a lot of them and they were panicking about their family in Lombok. It was just a lot of panic because no one knew what was happening."

Thousands of people are now trying to get off the island, she said, describing the mood as both somber and panicked.

Hundreds of people packed a sliver of brilliant white beach on the 16-square-kilometer (6-square-mile) island, shouting at rescue personnel trying to ensure an orderly evacuation, video and photos

supplied by the local water police showed.

Sutopo said there were no fatalities among the local and foreign tourists and a joint search and rescue team had deployed three ships to evacuate people.

Australia's home affairs minister tweeted that he and his delegation were safely evacuated in darkness from a Lombok hotel where they have been staying during a regional security conference.

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton told Fairfax Media that he was on the hotel's 12th floor when the quake struck. He said the quake "was powerful enough to put us on the floor" and cut power.

The Bali and Lombok airports continued operating Sunday night, according to

the director general of civil aviation. There had been a half-hour evacuation at the Lombok airport following the quake because the electricity went off. TV showed crying women consoling each other outside Lombok's airport.

Like Bali, Lombok is known for pristine beaches and mountains. Hotels and other buildings in both locations are not allowed to exceed the height of coconut trees.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra island triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Suicide bomber kills 3 NATO forces in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban suicide bomber killed three NATO forces on a foot patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday in an attack that also wounded a U.S. soldier and two Afghan troops, NATO said in a statement.

The Czech military confirmed that the three killed were Czech service members.

The Taliban claimed the attack, which took place near Charakar, the provincial capital of the Parwan province.

"My thoughts and prayers, along with those of all of the 41-contributing Resolute Support nations, are with the families and friends of our fallen and wounded service members, and our injured Afghan brothers and their families," said U.S. Army Gen. John Nicholson, the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. "Their sacrifice will endure in both our hearts and history, and further strengthen our resolve."

Czech Defense Minister Lubomir Metnar also offered his condolences. The Czechs had recently approved a plan to deploy 390 soldiers in Afghanistan through 2020, up from the current 230, as part of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

NATO formally concluded its combat mission in Afghanistan in 2014, but some 16,000 U.S. and other NATO soldiers are providing support and training to Afghan troops and carrying out counterterrorism missions.

Last month, the Taliban struck a NATO convoy with a suicide car bomb in the eastern Logar province. The attack killed two civilians and damaged a NATO vehicle.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, the Taliban attacked a newly constructed district headquarters in the southern Uruzgan province early Saturday, killing four Afghan soldiers, according to Mohammad Maruf Ahmadzai, the provincial police chief. He said nine Taliban fighters were killed in the ensuing gunbattle.

The Taliban claimed the attack and said they captured soldiers alive.

In eastern Nangarhar province, a soldier was killed by a suicide bomber in the capital Jalalabad, said Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor. He said three other soldiers and a civilian were wounded in the attack.

Hiroshima marks 73rd anniversary of atomic bombing in WWII

TOKYO (AP)—Hiroshima marked the anniversary of the Aug. 6, 1945, atomic bombing with a somber ceremony Monday to remember the people killed and injured and a call to eliminate nuclear weapons amid hopes of denuclearizing North Korea.

Mayor Kazumi Matsui opened his peace address by describing the hellish scene of the blast that morning 73 years ago and the agony of the victims, telling the audience to listen "as if you and your loved ones were there." He

raised concerns about the rise of egocentric policies in the world and warned against the idea of nuclear deterrence as a threat to global security. Matsui urged leaders to steadily work toward achieving a world without atomic weapons.

"Certain countries are blatantly proclaiming self-centered nationalism and modernizing their nuclear arsenals, rekindling tensions that had eased with the end of the Cold War," Matsui said, without identifying the countries. Nuclear deterrence and nuclear umbrellas

are "inherently unstable and extremely dangerous" approaches that seek to maintain international order by only generating fear in rival countries, he said, urging world leaders to negotiate in good faith to eliminate nuclear arsenals instead.

The U.S. attack on Hiroshima killed 140,000 people, and the bombing of Nagasaki killed more than 70,000 three days later, leading to Japan's surrender and ending World War II.

The anniversary comes amid hopes to denuclearize North Korea after Kim Jong Un and

President Donald Trump made vague aspirational statements of denuclearizing the peninsula when they met in Singapore in June. "We in civil society fervently hope that the easing of tensions on the Korean Peninsula will proceed through peaceable dialogue," he said.

Japan should take a more constructive role to achieve a nuclear-free world, he said, urging Tokyo to help the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons take effect. Japan, which hosts U.S. troops on its land and is covered by

the U.S. nuclear umbrella protecting it from attack, has not signed the treaty.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who also was at the ceremony, said differences between the nuclear and non-nuclear states are widening. But he pledged to do more to bridge their gap. In order to gain cooperation from both sides, it is important for everyone to understand "the reality of the tragedy of nuclear attacks," he said, and reiterated Japan's pledge to maintain it pacifist and non-nuclear principles.

World

Venezuela detains 6 in failed drone attack aimed at Maduro

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Authorities detained six people suspected of using explosives-laden drones in a failed bid to assassinate Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, officials said Sunday, in what one witness described as a terrifying attack that shook her apartment building.

The government alleged that opposition factions conspired with assailants in Miami and Bogota, although they offered no specific evidence. Opposition leaders decried Maduro for broadly singling out his political opponents, and they warned he may use it to further suppress his critics.

The thwarted attack comes as Venezuela is reeling from a worsening economic and humanitarian crisis and Maduro has grown increasingly isolated. Foreign nations, including the United States, are slapping economic sanctions against a growing list of high-ranking officials and decrying his government as an autocratic regime.

The assailants flew two drones each packed with 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) of C-4 plastic explosive toward Maduro, his wife and other top leaders as he spoke Saturday evening at an event celebrating the 81st anniversary of the National Guard, said Interior Minister Nestor Reverol. One of the drones was to explode above the president while the other was to detonate directly in front of him, he added.

But the military managed to knock one of the drones off-course electronically and the other crashed into apartment building two blocks away from where Maduro was speaking to the hundreds of troops, Reverol said.

"We have six terrorists and assassins detained," Reverol said. "In the next hours there could be more arrests."

Of those arrested, Reverol said two had previous run-ins with the government, although he did not give their names or say what charges they faced. One took part in 2014 protests that rocked the nation as it descended into an economic crisis that is now worse than the Great Depression. The other had a warrant out for his arrest for participating in an attack on a military barracks.

Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, appearing on state television Sunday, said the attackers were aiming to decapitate Venezuela's entire top leadership along with Maduro.

Investigators continued searching a blackened apartment building near the site while also seizing vehicles and raiding more than one hotel where they said they had found "film evidence."

Two witnesses who live in nearby apartment buildings said they saw a drone hovering over a residential street Saturday evening and then heard an explosion.

One witness showed The Associated Press cellphone video of a drone crashing into a building. He said the drone fell to the ground and exploded, igniting a fire in an apartment.

Another witness, Mairum Gonzalez, described running in panic to her fifth-floor balcony, where she heard the second explosion and saw smoke rising.

"It was so strong the building shook," she said. "It terrified me."

In an address to the nation Saturday night, a visibly shaken Maduro recalled seeing a "flying device" that exploded. He at first thought it might be a pyrotechnics display.

Within seconds, Maduro said he heard a second blast and pandemonium broke out. Bodyguards escorted him from the event, covering him in black shields, and TV footage showed uniformed soldiers break formation and scatter.

"This was an attempt to kill me," he said.

Maduro said the "far right," working in coordination with others in Bogota and Miami, including Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, were responsible. Colombia's government has vehemently denied Santos had any role in the drone attack.

Maduro, who also says that Washington supports his political opponents, called on U.S. President Donald Trump to hold the "terrorist group" accountable.

Trump's national security adviser John Bolton told "Fox News Sunday" that, "If the government of Venezuela has hard information that they want to present to us that would show a potential violation of U.S. criminal law, we'll take a serious look at it."

The Broad Front, a coalition of opposition groups in Venezuela, accused the government of making an allegation without proof.

"It's evident that the initial reaction of the government isn't aimed at attempting to clarify what happened but rather to take advantage of the situation and irresponsibly

and sweepingly attack the 'opposition,'" the group said in a statement.

A little-known group calling itself Soldiers in T-shirts claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it planned to fly two drones loaded with explosives at the president but soldiers shot them down. The authenticity of the message could not be independently verified, and the organization did not respond to a message from the AP.

"It was not successful today, but it is just a matter of time," the group said in a tweet.

Venezuela's government routinely accuses opposition activists of plotting to attack and overthrow Maduro. The former bus driver has moved steadily to consolidate power as the nation struggles to reverse hyperinflation that the

International Monetary Fund projects could top 1 million percent by year's end.

The firebrand leader sees his mission as carrying out the late Hugo Chavez's socialist revolution. He recently won a new term in office in a widely condemned election. The opposition's most popular candidates were barred from running.

Maduro said the incident had left him convinced of the military's support and undeterred in carrying forward the torch of Chavez's revolution.

"Venezuela will continue on the democratic, independent and socialist path," he said.

Analysts believe Maduro still holds the military's support, but said the images broadcast live on television Saturday nonetheless made him appear vulnerable.

Lisbon breaks record for maximum temp, hits 44 C (111.2 F)

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Lisbon broke a 37-year-old record to notch its hottest temperature ever as an unrelenting heat wave baked Portugal and neighboring Spain. New heat records were set in 26 places around Portugal.

Portugal's weather service said the capital reached 44 degrees Celsius (111.2 degrees Fahrenheit) on Saturday afternoon, surpassing the city's previous record of 43 C (109.4 F) set in 1981.

The day's hottest tempera-

ture of 46.8 C (116.2 F) was recorded at Alvega in the center of Portugal. The country's highest temperature on record is 47.4 C (117.3 F) from 2003.

Portugal's weather service said new maximum highs were recorded at 26 places from measurements taken at a total of 96 weather stations around the country. More than 60 percent of the country registered temperatures of over 40 C (104 F).

The hot, dusty conditions across the Iberian Peninsula

are the result of a mass of hot air from Africa and have increased the risk of forest fires. Over 700 firefighters were still battling a forest fire near the Portuguese town of Monchique in the southern Algarve region, a popular tourist destination.

Six people were injured late Saturday as they escaped a separate blaze near the Portuguese town of Estremoz, civil protection officer Jose Ribeiro told the Portuguese state television RTP.

Sunday's forecasts called for temperatures to dip slightly while remaining extremely high.

Portugal issued warnings of extreme heat for most of the country and forecast maximum temperatures of 44 C (111.2 F) for some areas in the south.

Spain lowered its warnings for heat from "red" to "orange" for large parts of the south, but highs there were still predicted to reach 40-42 C (104-107.6 F).

US teacher rows solo across Atlantic in record time

LONDON (AP)—A high school science teacher from Cincinnati, Ohio, has rowed solo across the Atlantic Ocean, setting a record for a west-to-east crossing.

Bryce Carlson arrived at St. Mary's in the Isles of Scilly, off England's southwestern tip, late Saturday—38 days, six hours and 49 minutes after setting out from St. John's, Newfoundland.

The 37-year-old athlete was applauded by relatives and well-wishers as he stepped onto the quay at St. Mary's Harbour after rowing more than 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers) in his 20-foot (6-meter)

boat, Lucille.

Carlson capsized several times and endured high waves and the remnants of a hurricane during his journey.

"I feel like I had a lot of luck along the way, and a lot of help," Carlson said. "Help from my friends, my family, the community—from some higher power, I don't know."

The Ocean Rowing Society listed Carlson's time on its website Sunday as the fastest for a west-to-east unsupported solo row. The previous record was 53 days, eight hours and 26 minutes.

Carlson also is the first American to complete the feat, according to the society.



A woman takes a photo as her child plays in a fountain at a park in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018. The hot weather in Moscow is continuing, with temperatures forecast to reach 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit).

AP

Focus

By JOSH BOAK
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

MONACA, Pennsylvania (AP)—The United States is on pace to add about 2.6 million jobs this year under President Donald Trump's watch. Yet the bulk of the hiring has occurred in bastions of Democratic voters rather than in the Republican counties that put Trump in the White House.

On average for the year-ended this May, 58.5 percent of the job gains were in counties that backed Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016, according to an Associated Press analysis of monthly government jobs data by county.

Despite an otherwise robust national economy, the analysis shows that a striking number of Trump counties are losing jobs. The AP found that 35.4 percent of Trump counties have shed jobs in the past year, compared with just 19.2 percent of Clinton counties.

The jobs data shows an economy that is as fractured as the political landscape ahead of the 2018 midterm elections. As more money pools in such corporate hubs as Houston, San Francisco or Seattle, prosperity spills over less and less to smaller towns and cities in America's interior. That would seem to undercut what Trump sees as a central accomplishment—job creation for middle class and blue-collar workers in towns far removed from bustling urban centers.

Job growth in Trump's economy is still concentrated in the same general places as it was toward the end of Barack Obama's presidency—when roughly 58.7 percent of the average annual job gains were in Democratic counties.

Yet the lack of transformative job growth in Trump areas hasn't seemed to erode his support among Republicans, while hiring in Democratic areas have done little to improve his standing with those voters. For Trump's core supporters, cultural issues such as gun rights, immigration and loyalty to the president have become dominant priorities.

Trump has pointed with pride at a strengthening national economy in hopes that voters will reward the Republican Party by preserving its majorities in the House and Senate this year. The government reported the fastest quarterly economic growth since 2014 and the unemployment rate is a healthy 3.9 percent. At a Pennsylvania rally on Thursday, the president declared, "Our economy is soaring. Our jobs are booming."

But other issues preoccupy the minds of the party faithful in Trump strongholds such as Beaver County, Pennsylvania,



AP
In this Thursday, July 26, 2018, photo, OpenAI researcher Jonas Schneider examines the research lab's robotic hand in San Francisco. The hand, called Dactyl, has a single job, and that's to rotate a cube until the letter facing up matches a random selection.

Jobs boom favors Democratic counties, not Trump strongholds

northwest of Pittsburgh.

Chip Kohser, the county Republican chairman and the bristle-bearded founder of a farm share company, said his party members are rallying around their staunch opposition to gun control.

"Our No. 1 motivating factor," he said, "is Second Amendment issues."

Kohser, 41, drives a white pickup truck, smokes cigars and views America as being jaggedly splintered along ideological lines that make it hard to find common ground. Democratic calls for stricter gun control in the aftermath of mass shootings, he said, are fueling more zeal among his Republican volunteers than are the \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts that Trump signed into law last year.

Since May 2017, Beaver County has lost 191 jobs. With the warmer summer weather, hiring is now on an upswing. But employers have fewer job applicants available as the labor force has shrunk by roughly 1,000 workers in the past 12 months, the result of decades of population loss that hit former steel towns such as Aliquippa, Beaver Falls and Midland.

The tax cuts haven't stopped the outflow of people. Chatting over eggs, bacon and home fries, Kohser estimated that the tax cuts have added perhaps \$1,200 to his annual household income and roughly the same to many others in the area—not likely enough on its own to rejuvenate the local economy.

The United States is full of places like Beaver County. They are areas where the cur-

rently robust national economy and job market obscure long-standing woes that generations of politicians have struggled to reverse. There are the long-shuttered factories, stagnant incomes and the departure of college-educated workers to cities and surrounding suburbs.

Many of those forgotten men and women might cheer the president for slapping tariffs on imported goods to defend U.S. factory jobs or his vow to build a wall on the Mexican border to block illegal immigration. But for struggling communities waiting for jobs to be restored, Trump's tax cuts—which were skewed toward corporations and wealthy individuals—have yet to deliver.

During the past year, the healthiest job gains have been in counties containing such vibrant cities as Houston, Dallas, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Seattle, all of them places that have favored Democrats.

Texas, which Trump won handily, reflects the geographic split in the economy. Within that state, Clinton—not Trump—won the counties that have accounted for bulk of that state's job growth.

Though public opinion surveys suggest that the economy gives an advantage to Trump and the Republicans, the economy no longer packs as big a punch with the electorate.

When the Pew Research Center asked voters in June to identify the nation's most pressing issue, more of them chose immigration, race, political gridlock or Trump himself than the economy. The proportion of people who said the

economy was their top priority fell to its lowest level in more than eight years.

Sixty percent of Americans told Pew that they see their midterm vote as an act of either supporting the president (26 percent) or opposing him (34 percent). That is the highest combined number since Pew began asking such a question in 2006.

And 68 percent said that control of Congress would influence how they vote, the highest level in two decades.

Despite greater income inequality, separate research suggests the economy isn't the only source of America's growing cultural divide.

Since the 1970s, Americans have also moved further apart on matters of "political ideology," according to research published in June by University of Chicago economists Marianne Bertrand and Emir Kamenica. Their work found that conservatives and liberals have become more sharply split on such issues as confidence in the government and social institutions, religious participation and stances on marriage, sex and abortion.

In Pennsylvania, many Democrats see the choices made by Trump as putting democracy itself at risk. Their fears stem in part from his administration's initial policy of separating refugee children from their parents and his seemingly deferential relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose nation interfered in the 2016 election, according to U.S. intelligence agencies.

"What I'm hearing daily

is fear amongst people as to whether their democracy is slipping away from them," said Nancy Mills, the Pennsylvania Democratic chairwoman. "I'm really hearing that more than anything else."

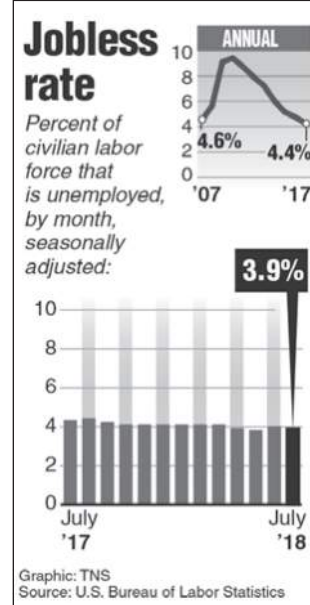
She then added, "This situation at the border was really a wake-up call and frightening."

Trump has described his crackdown on undocumented immigrants, refugees and his efforts to limit legal immigration as positive for the country. Yet the economic growth he promised would revitalize Beaver County may depend on its ability to attract immigrants as it did a century ago when the steel mills brought Germans, Italians and Eastern Europeans workers to the area.

Beaver County never fully recovered from the steel mill closures in the 1980s that caused the unemployment rate to spike at nearly 30 percent.

Many young workers with college degrees migrated east for Pittsburgh's technology and medical care jobs. The result of this population flight is that Beaver County is rapidly aging, with a median age of 44.8 years old, compared with 37.7 nationwide and 32.9 in Pittsburgh.

If the area weren't suffering from a dwindling population, employers say they would have more workers to hire and the county would have job gains rather than losses. Local business groups see the possibility of a vibrant future because the county sits atop a massive reserve of natural gas. On the banks of the Ohio River, an army of cranes are building a chemical plant that helps to convert the natural gas



into plastic—a source of hundreds of jobs.

Republican Rep. Keith Rothfus recently sat in the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce's wood-paneled conference room as local business owners recounted their difficulties in finding workers. A local cafe struggled to hire bakers who could start the ovens at 3 a.m. The shopping mall manager found that higher pay did little to attract better job applicants.

A congressman since 2013, Rothfus bears the calm, bespectacled manner of a professor. He faces a tough re-election battle in Pennsylvania's newly created 17th District against Democrat Conor Lamb, who won a special election House victory earlier this year. Both Rothfus and Lamb's current districts were redrawn this year by court order.

Sitting outside a cafe before the chamber meeting, Rothfus said there was a clear path for generating job growth: Immigrants.

"You look at areas of the country that are really thriving—there's a significant immigrant population," he said. "We need to do a better job of attracting immigrants here. This place was built on immigrants."

But Rothfus has also been outspoken on the importance of tighter border security. A few weeks after the chamber meeting, he voted for a bill that, had it passed, would have imposed tougher border measures and likely curbed legal immigration.

When asked if voters would make their choice this November based on the health of the economy, Rothfus said, emphatically, yes. His belief is that the tax cuts and pull-back on regulations by Trump would help give him an edge.

"I think you look at the choice we have: Do we want to have more government and higher taxes or more jobs and higher wages?" he said. "That's a pretty compelling argument."

As of now, Beaver County is still waiting on the job surge.

Overdrive

Best way to eliminate cigarette stink in cars is with ozone

By **BOB WEBER**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Q: It seems that you have previously given tips on eliminating the terrible cigarette odor in a used car, but I can't remember. This car has a leather interior, the cabin air filter has been replaced, sprays have been used on carpeting, but to no avail. The car is in great shape except for the nauseating smell! Can you please provide some suggestions?

A: Most of the products you can find in auto parts stores and variety stores are scented cover ups. The most effective and long-lasting way to eliminate odors is with ozone. Ozone is a three-atom variant of oxygen and is not something you will find on any shelf. It can be toxic. Many professional detailing shops have ozone generators that can remove just about any stink. Expect to leave your car for a couple of hours or more. All of your personal belongings must be removed, the floors and seats vacuumed and other surfaces cleaned as necessary. If the car has a cabin air filter, remember to change it often. If activated charcoal filters are available, go for them.

Q: I usually buy gasoline at a station where the pumps have no sign or notice that the gasoline contains ethanol. Can I assume that I'm buying pure gas, or can ethanol be added without notifying the buyer?

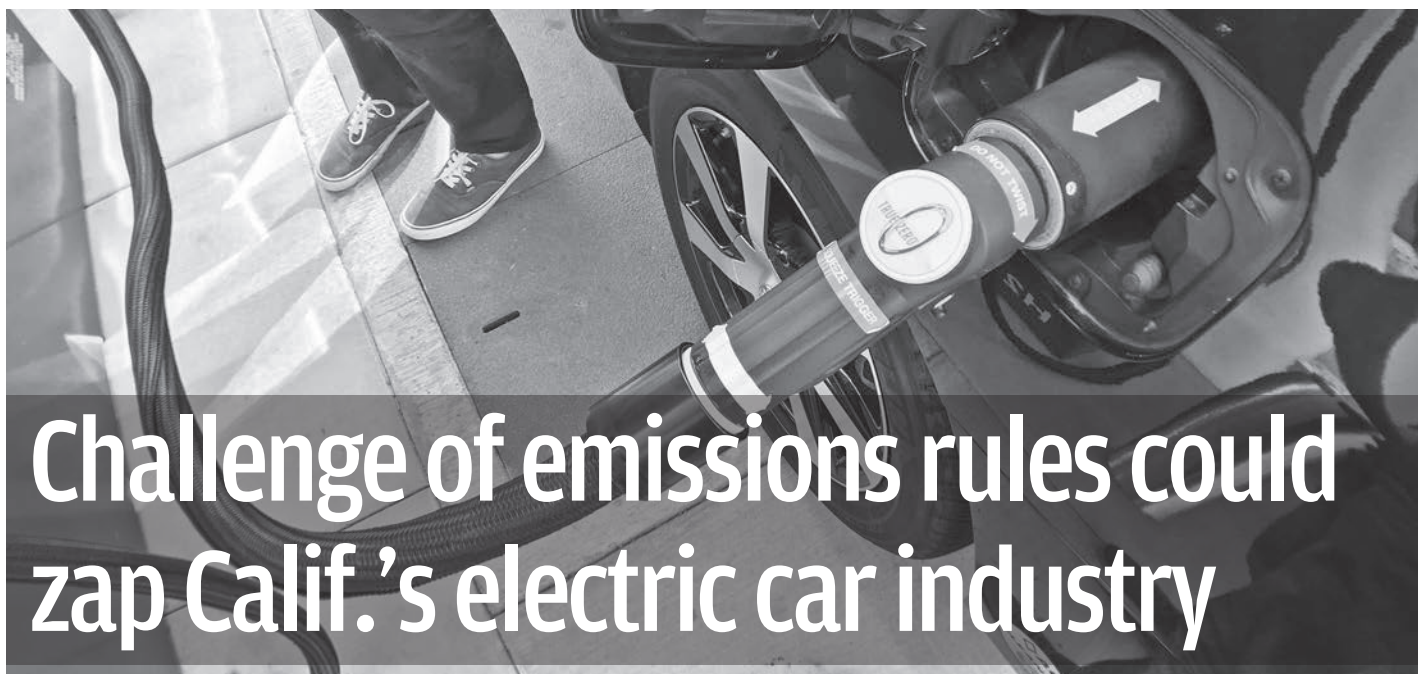
A: Michigan is among several states that do not require labels when ethanol is blended into gasoline. So no, you cannot assume that you are getting pure gasoline. Some retailers do offer pure gasoline, but when they do, the price is significantly higher. Let that be a clue as to what you are pumping into your tank.

Q: In 1967 while in school in San Diego, a local took us up to see the Mount Palomar telescope. On the way down, after the last curve, and while on a long descent along a straightaway leading to a flat stretch, the driver said: "I have no brakes." The old drum brakes had overheated and would not grip. We coasted to a stop and waited for the brakes to cool and regain their function. Scary! Ever since, I have always downshifted to use engine braking, even long after the industry shifted to disk brakes. I think people riding with me may have thought me a little weird. After reading your column, I'm glad I always did it, and not just because of the brake wear you mention.

A: Drum brakes were notorious for overheating during extended application. That is why they are found only on entry-level small cars and only on the rear. The rear brakes generally provide only 20 percent of the braking. Another issue with extended brake application is boiling brake fluid. When any liquid boils, it turns to a gas and gases are compressible so the brakes fail. DOT 4 brake fluid has a higher boiling point than DOT 3. Even more importantly, any water in the hydraulic system will boil long before the brake fluid, so it is a good idea to flush and replace the fluid from time to time. By the way, cars with manual transmissions are perfect candidates for engine braking.

Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Third Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest.



Challenge of emissions rules could zap Calif.'s electric car industry

2017 Honda Civic Si continues the Civic's winning tradition, using an upgraded version of the 1.5-liter turbo four-cylinder engine in the base Civic mated to a 6-speed manual transmission making 205 horsepower. The sporting Civic Si is a value at just under \$24,000. Pictured in Rhinelander, Wisc., on August 19, 2017.

TNS

By **STUART LEAVENWORTH**
and **EMILY CADEI**
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—California helped birth the nation's electric vehicle industry. It used its laws and market size to prompt automakers to make and sell electric vehicles. It encouraged Tesla and other innovators to build manufacturing plants.

Over the years, California spawned an entire industry devoted to EV batteries, charging stations and utility collaborations, with billions of dollars invested.

Now, all of that is at risk. On Thursday, the Trump administration proposed freezing Obama-era rules that require automakers to build cleaner, more fuel-efficient cars, including hybrids and electric vehicles. The proposal would also challenge

California's authority to set its own greenhouse gas restrictions on cars, including a mandate that automakers sell a certain number of electric cars in California.

If the administration prevails, it could upend numerous California enterprises devoted to clean cars, some of whom are already reeling from market uncertainty.

On Thursday, the CEO of the nation's largest EV charging network blasted the Trump administration decision, saying it will "turn back the clock" both on pollution reduction and U.S. competitiveness in electric vehicles.

"California is the global leader in the mobility revolution, due in no small part to the state's commitment to emissions reductions," said Pasquale Romano, CEO of ChargePoint, headquartered in Campbell, Calif. "It simply makes no sense to revoke this

waiver at a time when California leads the nation's efforts to compete in the global marketplace."

Altogether, nearly 15,000 people in California are employed by companies involved with fuel-efficient or zero emission vehicles, out of 288,000 nationwide, according to a report last year by the Bluegreen Alliance Foundation, an environmental research group.

But U.S. employment in the sector has dropped the last year, in part because of competition from China and uncertainties about federal fuel-economy standards, said Bob Keefe, executive director of Environmental Entrepreneurs, a group that represents clean tech businesses.

The administration's rollback of auto fuel efficiency standards won't help those employment trends, and likely will hurt, he said.

"This puts thousands of jobs

at risk," Keefe said. "There's also going to be a loss of savings to consumers every time they go to the pump with less-efficient vehicles. Lastly, this hurts American innovation—our ability to compete with China and other countries."

Industry groups praised the administration's rollback. These included groups that oppose federal action to counter climate change, as well as auto industry coalitions, which were more muted in their response.

"Automakers support continued improvements in fuel economy and flexibilities ... while balancing priorities like affordability, safety, jobs, and the environment," said a joint statement from the Auto Alliance and Global Automakers, which represent major corporations such as General Motors, Ford, Fiat Chrysler and Toyota.

GM to hire hackers to find bugs in car computers

By **JAMIE L. LAREAU**
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Highly computerized cars could mean consumers' data is vulnerable or the driver safety might be endangered if car companies aren't prepared to cut off any data breach or threat to cybersecurity at the pass.

General Motors is taking no chances. It's bringing in those exact people who might do the infiltration to help thwart it.

In the upcoming weeks, GM will bring researchers, some of whom are professional computer hackers, to Detroit to offer them a bounty or cash payment for each "bug" they uncover in any of GM vehicles' computer systems.

"We'll show them the products, programs and systems for which we plan to establish these bug bounties. Then we'll put them in a comfortable environment, ply them with pizza and Red Bull or whatever they might

need ... and turn them loose," GM's President Dan Ammann said in a speech at the Billington CyberSecurity Summit at Cobo Center in Detroit on Friday.

After that, GM will send these cybersecurity pros home with hardware to continue their research over many weeks, he said.

The program, called Bug Bounty, will include about 10 researchers GM has hand-picked.

"They are white-hat researchers who we've established relationships with through our coordinated disclosure program," Jeff Massimila, GM's vice president of Global CyberSecurity, told reporters at the summit.

"White hat" is Internet slang for an ethical computer hacker or computer security expert who specializes in penetration testing or other testing methods to help protect an organization's information systems.

GM started its coordinated disclosure program two years ago, Massimila said. He said

GM was one of the first automakers to embrace the work of white hat researchers for its products and programs. The coordinated disclosure program was open to anyone, but GM did not pay those researchers for any contributions. Instead, he said, GM built relationships and identified the 10 it would pay to fix the bugs.

GM presently employs about 450 people working in the cybersecurity area, Massimila said.

The Bug Bounty program will start before the end of the summer, Massimila said. He and Ammann declined to say how much GM will pay the bug hunters or what it has spent on cybersecurity so far.

But Ammann said, "It is a top priority" for GM that its vehicles are safe from any data breach or threats particularly as it aggressively pursues development and deployment of autonomous vehicles, which it plans to take to market next year.

Ammann said GM has a broad perspective of where threats to information technology could come from.

"The overall threat level and so on is only going to grow from here, which is why we're putting so much energy and resources into getting ahead and staying ahead," Ammann told reporters at Cobo.

The work is not just happening inside the company, said Ammann, but GM is "taking advantage of third-party researchers, taking advantage of third-party expertise from multiple different places, working together across the industry to collaborate to make sure we have all the best minds working on this issue."

Convincing consumers that GM cars are secure from any cyber threats will happen by meeting government regulations and having strong public communications, Ammann said, adding, "We'll have work to do ahead of us on that."

Life & Style

'Mission: Impossible' bests Winnie-the-Pooh at box office



This image released by Disney shows Ewan McGregor in a scene from "Christopher Robin."

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Cruise sped past Winnie-the-Pooh at the box office to lead all films for the second straight week with an estimated \$35 million in ticket sales for "Mission: Impossible -- Fallout."

The success of Paramount Pictures' sixth, stunt-filled "Mission: Impossible" installment, along with muted enthusiasm for the Walt Disney Co.'s "Christopher Robin," made for a seldom-seen result: A Disney movie debuting in second place.

In a year where the studio has already notched three \$1 billion films worldwide ("Black Panther," "Avengers: Infinity War" and, as of this week, "Incredibles 2"), the more modest Winnie-the-Pooh live-action revival opened with a relatively ho-hum \$25 million. As a reminder that "Christopher Robin" was a minor release for Disney, "Black Panther"

on Sunday became the third film to ever cross \$700 million domestically, a feat only previously accomplished by "Avatar" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Made for an estimated \$75 million, Marc Forster's "Christopher Robin" stars Ewan McGregor as a grown-up Christopher Robin reunited with the beloved characters of the Hundred Acre Wood: Pooh, Tigger, Piglet and the rest (who are rendered digitally but convincingly felt-like). While reviews were mixed, audiences gave it an "A" CinemaScore.

Cathleen Taff, head of distribution for Disney, said there's room for non-tentpole releases in the Disney slate.

"It's one of our smaller films and it's really focused

1. "Mission: Impossible -- Fallout," \$35 million (\$76 million international).
2. "Christopher Robin," \$25 million (\$4.8 million international).
3. "The Spy Who Dumped Me," \$12.4 million.
4. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$9.1 million (\$19.3 million international).
5. "The Equalizer 2," \$8.8 million.
6. "Hotel Transylvania 3," \$8.8 million (\$18 million international).
7. "Ant-Man and the Wasp," \$6.2 million (\$11.2 million international).
8. "The Darkest Minds," \$5.8 million (\$4.1 million international).
9. "Incredibles 2," \$5 million (\$19 million international).
10. "Teen Titans Go! To the Movies," \$4.9 million.

on character and emotion," said Taff. "We're happy with where it's at and we think it's got some runway being one of the only family options going forward."

Taff confirmed that "Christopher Robin" has been denied a release in China, locking the release out from the world's second largest film market. While China provides no reason for the films it doesn't select for its theaters, government sensors have recently been blocking images of Winnie-the-Pooh after bloggers began using him to parody Chinese president Xi Jinping.

The late-summer success of "Mission: Impossible"—which has made \$124.5 million thus far along with \$205 million internationally—is helping solidify a comeback summer for Hollywood. The summer box office is up 10.6 percent from last year's record-low season, according to comScore, and year-to-date ticket sales are up 8 percent.

"As we head into what is almost always the slowest

month at the summer box office, we have some nice momentum going," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "With a 10.6 percent increase over the summer last year, we're going to maintain a solid advantage when we get to the end of the month."

Not all the news was great. Comedy continues to struggle at the box office. The R-rated action-comedy "The Spy Who Dumped Me," starring Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon, debuted in third with \$12.4 million for Lionsgate.

And a pair of poorly reviewed releases sputtered

in nationwide release. Fox's young-adult dystopian thriller "The Darkest Minds" (19 percent "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes) opened with \$5.7 million on 3,127 screens. And right-wing filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza's "Death of a Nation" (0 percent "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes) debuted with \$2.3 million on 1,032 screens.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Author Murakami talks music, running, novels on radio show

TOKYO (AP)—Best-selling Japanese author Haruki Murakami, hosting a special radio show featuring some of his favorite songs he runs to, says writing novels is about rhythm, as in music and running.

"Murakami Radio," a pre-recorded show broadcast Sunday night, featured as its themes two crucial elements of his life as a novelist: running and music. During the 55-minute show, Murakami played nine numbers he enjoys running to—rock and jazz—selected from thousands of titles stored on several iPods, while sharing stories behind the songs and talking about running and writing.

A perennial contender for the Nobel literature prize, Murakami said he initially had no intention of becoming a writer. After finishing university, he was running a jazz bar in Tokyo and music was his thing, and that's where his style comes from, he said.

"Rather than learning storytelling technique from someone, I've taken a musical approach, while being very conscious about rhythms, harmony and improvisation," the 69-year-old Murakami said on the radio. "It's like writing as I dance, even though I don't actually dance. For me, writing tends to be a very physical process, and that's my style. If you think my books are easy to read, perhaps we have something in common musically."

A native of Kyoto, Murakami has precise memories of when he decided to become a writer: at around 1:30 p.m. on April 1, 1978, while attending a baseball game at Tokyo's Jingu Stadium—home to the underdog Japanese baseball

team the Yakult Swallows, his favorite—where he saw an American named Dave Hilton hit a double, he wrote in his 2007 memoir, "What I Talk About When I Talk About Running."

Murakami's first novel, "Hear the Wind Sing," came out in 1979. His 1987 romantic novel "Norwegian Wood" was his first best-seller, establishing him as a young literary star. Recent best-sellers include "1Q84," "Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage" and his latest novel, "Killing Commmandatore." Music serves as important motifs in his stories, and he has also written books on the topic.

Murakami started running soon after becoming a novelist, initially to lose weight he had gained from long hours of sitting and writing. He has since become a serious runner, completing more than 30 marathons.

He said he runs to keep up his physical strength. "When you write, your physical ability is extremely important," he said. "You sit all day and keep writing, so it takes a lot of energy, even though many people don't seem to believe me."

Rock music is his usual choice for running to keep a steady pace, he said, recommending "songs that you can sing along to, ideally those that give you courage."

Protagonists in Murakami's stories are often troubled young men seeking their self-identity in grim, dark or fantastical settings. But Murakami was upbeat and humorous during Sunday's program as in his short stories and essays, including his 2001 essay collection titled "Murakami Radio."

'Murphy Brown' revival to tackle MeToo movement

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—"Murphy Brown" will weigh in on the MeToo movement when the series starring Candice Bergen returns to a very different world in September, the show's creator said.

The 13-episode reboot reunites Bergen as a sharp-tongued investigative journalist and TV anchor with most of the original cast from the CBS show's initial 10-year run that ended in 1998 — before the internet and the rise of 24-hour cable news took hold. Once

again, scripts will be inspired by current events, including the fourth episode entitled "(Hashtag) MurphyToo."

Executive producer and writer Diane English told a TV critics' meeting the episode was developed months ago and inspired by the movement against workplace sexual harassment and assault that first gained momentum last fall.

"It's a powerful movement," she said. "We wanted to do it justice."

English said the show's writing staff, comprised of men and women of different

ages who are gay and straight, spent days discussing what she calls "a complicated issue."

"We came at it from so many different angles. Just the conversations we had in there, the perspectives that people have from their own particular prism," English said. "I don't think there's probably a woman out here that hasn't had an experience with misogyny and misconduct."

However, English is not one of them. She says she never experienced any kind of sexual misconduct or misogyny at CBS, where CEO Leslie

Moonves is under investigation for such behavior.

English said everyone on "Murphy Brown" takes the allegations against Moonves and other network employees raised in a recent New Yorker magazine article "extremely seriously" and fully supports the investigation.

"I'm focusing the show really through the prism of the press," English said. "The First Amendment and the free press is under attack like I've never seen before. The press is not the enemy of the people."

The series debuts Sept. 27.

'600-lb Life' star James Bonner found dead in South Carolina

LEXINGTON, S.C. (AP) — Authorities say a reality television star from the series "My 600-lb Life" has been found dead at a South Carolina home. James "LB" Bonner was 30.

A Lexington County Sheriff's Department incident report states that deputies performing a welfare check found Bonner dead from a gunshot wound Thursday.

It didn't appear foul play

was involved. The sheriff's department said it wasn't looking for any suspects but was awaiting an autopsy to say more about how he died.

TLC network, which aired the show, issued a statement mourning Bonner as a spirited character who was a fan favorite. The network said he had once weighed 650 pounds (295 kilograms) but dramatically reduced his weight.

'60 Minutes' exec named in misconduct article delays return

NEW YORK (AP)—The executive producer of the CBS news show "60 Minutes" is delaying his return from vacation until an investigation into sexual misconduct claims at the network wraps up.

Meanwhile, CBS Entertainment President Kelly Kahl told reporters on Sunday that CBS isn't saying it's perfect and that there's room for improvement in any large company.

The executives are dealing with fallout from a scandal after allegations against the executive producer, Jeff Fager, and CBS CEO Les Moonves appeared in a New Yorker article last month.

CBS hired two outside law firms to investigate claims of sexual misconduct from several women spanning three decades at the company. While most of the article focused on Moonves, the article also contained allegations of inappropriate behavior by Fager.

Fager has denied any wrongdoing.

CBS is keeping Moonves in place during the investigation. CBS has not said whether the investigation involves Fager, but on Sunday it said he will not return from his scheduled vacation on Monday as planned.

"Having heard the investigation will be wrapping up soon, Jeff has decided to stay on vacation," CBS News said in a statement.

The company declined to comment on when the investigation might end.

Against that backdrop, Kahl appeared Sunday at the Television Critics Association's summer meeting in Beverly Hills, California. He was there to promote the network's fall season lineup, including its much-anticipated reboot of "Murphy Brown." Instead, he fielded a barrage of questions about Moonves and the effectiveness of CBS policies involving misbehavior.

"I've had many female colleagues come to me this week who've been saddened about what they're read about our company. They said it does not represent their experience at CBS," Kahl said. "I'm not saying we're perfect. No large company is, and there's always room for improvement."

Calling Moonves an "excellent boss and mentor," Kahl said it's been difficult at CBS since the allegations emerged, adding that everyone at the network and its producers are working hard to air the "best shows we can."

Pop star Demi Lovato vows to keep fighting addiction

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In her first public comments since an overdose put her into the hospital, singer Demi Lovato says she remains committed to overcoming addiction.

"I will keep fighting," Lovato wrote Sunday in a post

on Instagram.

She also thanked her fans, family, team and staff at Cedars-Sinai hospital in Los Angeles. She reportedly overdosed on drugs at her Hollywood Hills



Lovato

home on July 24.

She said she's learned that the illness of addiction doesn't fade and is something she "must continue to overcome," and needs time to heal and focus on her sobriety

and recovery.

The singer-actress has spoken about her struggles with an eating disorder, self-mutilation, and drugs and alcohol. She has become a role model for young women and men who have faced their own issues.

Magnum's 'stache to get nod in reboot of CBS show

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The reboot of "Magnum P.I." won't forget fans of the original hit starring Tom Selleck, paying quiet homage recognizable to long-time viewers.

They include a pair of Dobermans, the red Ferrari, and the bickering relationship between Magnum, who is played by Jay Hernandez, and Higgins, with Perdita Weeks taking on the role that was a man in the original.

Just don't look for the big moustache that Selleck sported in the 1980s original on CBS. His character, along with those of Higgins and T.C., all sported 'staches.

Executive producer Peter Lenkov says Selleck brought that aesthetic to the role and the reboot aims to step away from his version of the character.

However, there will be what Lenkov calls "a little nod" to the moustache in the second episode.

The series debuts Sept. 24.



AP
Jay Hernandez participates in the "Magnum P.I." panel during the Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour at the the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Chrissy Teigen caught in Bali earthquake while on vacation

Chrissy Teigen has shared her shock and worry in real time during a powerful and deadly earthquake in Indonesia with her social media followers.

The model, along with singer-husband John Legend and their two children, felt the shaking on neighboring Bali on Sunday.

"Bali. Trembling. So long,"

Teigen tweeted to her 10.6 million followers.

The quake killed at least 39 people on the tourist island of Lombok, about 50 miles (80.5 kilometers) from Bali. A brief tsunami warning went into effect but was later lifted.



Teigen

In another posting, she wrote, "Oh man. We are on stilts. It felt like a ride. 15 solid seconds of 'hoooooooly (expletive) this is happening.'"

The aftershocks unnerved Teigen, too. "im either still trembling or

these little quakes won't stop IM TRYING TO BE NORMAL HERE," she wrote.

At one point, Teigen reacted to the temblor as she was holding her 2-month-old son Miles: "I very calmly walked outside saying clutching baby saying 'I'm naked. I'm naked. I'm naked.' like a naked zombie." (AP)

Wife's attraction to woman throws life into confusion

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old woman. I have been married to my husband for 28 years and never cheated. We have a good life together, and our sex life has always been great, but I have recently fallen in love with another woman.

I haven't told anyone, not even her. She has made several comments and advances toward me, but she frequently makes comments like, "I don't swim in the lady pond."

The two of us recently went out of town together. When she kissed me on my neck, I pulled away and nothing more happened. I am positive that if I hadn't, something would have happened.

I feel like I'm going crazy because I think about her every minute. We talk on the phone several times a day. She's married (to a man) and has been for 30 years. Is it possible for two straight women to suddenly fall in love with each other? Should I tell her how I feel? Please help me. I'm confused, lost and in turmoil.

FALLING IN LOVE

DEAR FALLING: Yes, it is possible for members of both sexes to become attracted to someone of the same sex and fall in love. Have an honest conversation with the woman. Tell her you are confused about what happened on the trip.

I'm not sure she was completely honest about her "swimming" habits, but you may or may not be the first woman she has become attracted to.

I hesitate to advise what steps to take beyond that since you are both in longtime, committed relationships. Much will depend upon what she has to say.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating my boyfriend for two years. We are the same age and have children from previous marriages. His are teenagers, and I have twin boys at home who are 6. Early on we discussed blending our families.

Although he has been eager to be a part of my life and my family, he has been less than enthusiastic about opening up his own life to me. He takes vacations with his children and leaves me out. He also travels alone to places we have discussed going to together. If I say anything, he accuses me of being selfish. But if I plan anything with my own children, he always expects to be included.

I'm getting fed up with it. I feel resentful living on the fringes of his world, while he expects to be at the center of mine. Am I selfish, or do I have a legitimate complaint?

OFF BALANCE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OFF BALANCE: You and your boyfriend should

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

both be spending some separate vacation time with your children, but not to the exclusion of each other. That he would take trips you had planned together without you seems peculiar, and I don't think you are selfish to be bothered by it.

Although you have been seeing each other for two years, he does not appear to be anywhere near ready to jump into the kind of relationship you are wishing for. You do have a legitimate complaint. Continue the discussion about this because something does appear to be off balance.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bridge
5 Apply cream
8 911 responders
12 Tropical tuber
13 — standstill
14 Author Bellow
15 Rabblerouser
17 Havana's land
18 Actress Arthur
19 Wrigley product
20 Symbol of freshness
21 Pop's mate
22 Solidify
23 Confuse
26 Hot sauce
30 Pundit's piece
31 "You've got mail" co.
32 Thunder god
33 Common newspaper name

DOWN

1 Wild guess
2 Senate aide
3 Operatic solo
4 "Kidding!"
5 Fact
6 Teensy bit
7 Saloon
8 Moving staircase
9 Hawaiian island
10 Vats
11 Do in
16 Awe-struck
20 Society newbie
21 One who presides over a panel discussion
22 Lass
23 Cranberry territory
24 Ecol. watchdog
25 Shriner's cap
26 Sock part
27 That girl
28 Guest's bed
29 Hosp. areas
31 \$ dispenser
34 Prom rental
35 Indigent
37 Strong suit
38 Combo
39 Reed instrument
40 Actress Russo
41 Bit of merchandise
42 River of Hades
43 Abode
44 Grecian vessels
46 Apprehend
47 "Caught ya!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | P | R | E | F | V | A | M | P |
| S | H | A | Q | A | P | R | A | S | O |
| T | U | T | U | M | I | A | C | H | O |
| A | T | E | I | N | C | U | B | A | |
| C | U | S | T | A | R | D | N | C | H |
| A | L | I | K | E | N | O | R | A | N |
| I | N | A | N | E | W | A | L | N | U |
| N | A | G | G | E | D | P | E | | |
| S | I | H | I | H | A | D | M | O | R |
| I | M | A | M | H | R | A | L | L | A |
| B | O | N | E | Y | A | M | E | T | S |

Yesterday's answer 8-7

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Trout, 27; Charlize Theron, 43; David Duchovny, 58; Wayne Knight, 63.

Happy Birthday: Ease into change. Know what you are getting into before you say yes. Take a moderate approach to whatever is asked of you. Keeping your distance from people who tend to be indulgent or manipulative will make it easier for you to reach your goals and strive to be the best you can be. Your numbers are 3, 14, 17, 24, 30, 34, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look inward and assess what you see. Personal changes will help you conquer the qualities you don't like about yourself. Set new expectations and strive to reach them. Proper diet and a safe fitness regimen are encouraged. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go over your plans in detail. Don't leave anything to chance. Listen carefully to what others have to contribute, and stick to a strategy that is realistic. Positive changes can be achieved if you incorporate moderation into your everyday routine. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Share your thoughts and feelings and you will make a difference to someone who shares your concerns. Personal physical and emotional changes can be made that will improve your outlook as well as your life. Social events and travel are favored. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't share too much information about your financial, legal or medical status. Listen to what others have to say; you will gain valuable information that will give you the edge in a competitive situation. Keep your life moderate and simple. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Trust your intuition when it comes to joint ventures. Don't get in over your head financially. Cut your overhead instead of adding to it. Listen, ask questions, but do not overreact or you will never get your way. Look for workable solutions. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Before implementing a change, go over all the pros and cons. Explore the possibilities and use past experience or the advice of an expert to spare you taking on too much or overspending when it's not necessary. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put more physical energy into the things you want to accomplish. Whether it's learning something new or making changes at home that will add to your comfort or convenience, the more you are willing to do yourself, the better the results. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a moment to observe what others are doing. Someone may try to set you up for a fall if you are too trusting or willing to let someone else speak on your behalf. Use your imagination and focus on creative endeavors. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will be difficult to control. Speak up about your plans, but keep a positive attitude and present a welcome picture to the people you look to for support. A physical change will boost your ego. Romance is highlighted. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take better care of your health. Don't overdo it physically or take on an emotional challenge that isn't necessary. Bring about a positive change at home or to the way you live. Discipline will be required when temptation arises. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Networking may be your intent, but someone close to you will be jealous of your connection to some of the people you deal with at work. Overreacting will only make matters worse. Share your thoughts and feelings. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are better off doing your own thing and looking for opportunities to make positive changes to your income and ability to advance. Don't let an emotional incident cause you to miss out on a good deal. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, intense and sensitive. You are energetic and adaptable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | 3 | 5 | | 6 | 8 | | |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | | | | | 1 | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | 9 | | |
| | | | 6 | | 8 | | | 3 | |
| 1 | | | | 2 | | | | 9 | |
| 3 | | | 1 | | 7 | | | | |
| | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | 5 | | | | | 4 | 6 | 8 | |
| 1 | 3 | | 8 | 2 | | | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★

8/07

Authenticity: ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 2 |

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

STEVEN BOCHCO (1943-2018)

Solution: 11 letters

S S N E W Y O R K A N G E L S
E E M M Y R E C U D O R P B R
L L U B G N I G A R T T O O A
L R A L G C O P S L W
E K E L B N H W E R T P Y D C
I C A S A T I I D R A M A H H
R O A L W W E S E R L Y T C A
B L N R I O A E I F N U L I R
A U O T A N H S R A R S E V A
G M S E N B S E S T R W R I C
S B S A J L R L I I S A U L T
H O O P E R M A N G L L A E E
O J B E S K O O B R O E L V R
W O R D S S Y A S E N O M I S
S T I D E U L B D P Y N D N H

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8/7

Angels, Barbara, Bold, Books, Bosson, Characters, Chief, City, Civil, Columbo, Cops, Dayna, Doogie Howser, Drama, Edit, Emmy, Gabrielle, Hill Street Blues, Hooperman, Jesse, Joanna, Kalins, L.A. Law, Laurel, Laws, Levin, Melissa, New York, NYPD Blue, Paris, Producer, Raging Bull, Raising, Shows, Simone Says, Total, Truth, Wars, Wise, Words, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Avengers

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 53, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

**A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

(1) – Victim Hotline Coordinator

For more information, job description can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Ground Floor, Old Sister Remedios' School in Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Completed application form, copy of diploma with highest achievement, resume, current police clearance valid for six months, copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: August 10, 2018 at 4:30pm

Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated
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One (1) Survey Instrument Man

Minimum Qualification: Associates degree in Geodetic Engineering (may be foreign equivalent)

Duties: Performs land survey-related data and document research. Conducts field cadastral, topographic and/or as-built surveys on assigned projects. Operates survey instruments during the conduct of assigned survey work. Organizes and takes survey field notes according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Downloads and assists in the plotting of data from data collectors according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. May supervise aide assisting with field survey work. Uses computer-based land survey software applications to perform land survey-related computations. Works and coordinates with engineers and environmental scientists to satisfy survey requirements on engineering design and environmental projects. Required to travel to MSA of Rota and MSA of Tinian, NMI to perform work.

If interested, send resume to Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated by email to jppangelinan@dcaguam.com or by fax at 670-234-3824. Proof of qualifications required.

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Qualification Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in: Medical Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry or related science or medical field. Minimum of 2 years experience as a Biomedical Engineer or other engineering fields and in the field of Sales of pharmaceuticals, dialysis, supplies and equipment, medical supplies and equipment, laboratory reagents and equipment. Excellent verbal and written communication skills and a good command of the English language. Experience in handling medical equipment and supplies, dialysis equipment and supplies, laboratory reagents and equipment. Must be available to work during nights, weekends and holidays. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license.

Please send resume to ruth.feril@medpharmusa.net

**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OPENING DATE: August 07, 2018 * CLOSING DATE: August 24, 2018 TIME: 4:30 P.M.

| NMHC JVA No. | Positions: | Salary: |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| 2018-010 | Receptionist | PL20-07 to PL20-09 \$19,272.74 to \$21,243.30- per annum |

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing

/s/
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Corporate Director

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Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health with good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards; provide current health certificate. Must have reliable transportation and willing to undergo drug test.

Please email your resume to
jobapplicant2014@gmail.com

CHONG'S CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) SHEET METAL WORKER

- Fabricate and install sheet metal & fiberglass products & equipment such as ducts, control boxes, drain pipes & furnace casings
- Set-up and operate fabricating equipment and machines, soldering and welding equipment
- Must be knowledgeable in interpreting plans and specifications
- Preferably knowledgeable in duct size calculation
- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- Must possess good communication skill

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

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has openings for:

One (1) Senior Wholesale Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Marketing (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Senior Wholesale Sales Representative, Sales and Marketing Representative, or Sales Representative for wholesaler.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective retail merchants to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Answers customers' questions about products, prices, availability and product uses. Displays and/or demonstrates products and recommends products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices, credit terms and delivery dates for purchase of company's products. Prepares and signs order forms and sales contracts, and collects payments from customers. Arranges for and delivers products to customers and ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Contacts customers after sales to resolve any problems and provide on-going support. Plans, assembles and stocks product displays in retail stores or make recommendations to retailers regarding product displays and promotional programs. Assists Marketing Manager in identifying prospective customers, monitoring market conditions and monitoring competitors' products and prices.

One (1) Product Demonstrator
Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma (may be foreign equivalent) and one (1) year of experience as a product demonstrator or merchandiser/product demonstrator.
Duties: Conducts product demonstrations, explains products to customers, and assists company in implementing advertising activities for company's products. Sets up props, demonstrates materials and supplies, arranges displays or demonstration areas for prospective customers, and assists in running sales promotions. Transports, assembles, and disassembles materials used in presentations. Prepares or alters presentation contents to target specific audiences. Prepares products and gives samples to customers to try/test. Provides product information and suggests specific product purchases to meet customers' needs, and assists in implementing advertising activities for the company's products. Sells products being promoted, delivers product to customers, and keeps records of sales. Contacts salesmen to replenish merchandise and re-stock store shelves to replenish products sold following product merchandising procedures. Performs other related duties.

One (1) Graphic Artist
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign equivalent); four (4) years of experience as a graphic artist; and one (1) year experience using Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Indesign software programs.
Duties: Designs and creates visual products to meet company's promotional needs, including designing and creating promotional displays, marketing brochures, signs and signage systems, packaging, logos, menus, website development, and other visual products. Formulates visual marketing campaign and overall design concepts for company to reach target markets. Applies critical thinking and problem solving analysis to various design concepts and approaches that can be utilized to attain the desired effect on the target market. Creates innovative design solutions utilizing knowledge of graphic design theory and methodologies in conjunction with current cultural trends, market demographics, cultural preferences, and seasonal shifts to achieve optimum market response. Produces and coordinates the execution of mock-up and final graphic design and artwork for the visual products. Uses Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Indesign software programs in performing job duties.

One (1) Sales Consultant
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in marketing or marketing management (may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as a Sales Consultant.
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective customers to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and suggests products that meet customers' needs. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts. May sign purchase orders and collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. May do deliveries of merchandise to customers when exigencies and circumstances require. Consults with customers after sale of products to resolve any issues and provide continuing support. Assists management in identifying prospective customers and monitoring competitors' products and prices. Performs other related duties.

One (1) Wholesale Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree (any major and may be foreign educational equivalent) and two (2) years of experience as Wholesale Sales Representative or Sales Representative
Duties: Sells and markets company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Contacts regular and prospective retail merchants to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Displays and/or demonstrates products and recommends products that meet customers' needs. Answers customers' questions about products, prices, availability, and product uses. Quotes prices, credit terms, and delivery dates for purchase of company's products. Prepares and signs order forms and sales contracts, and collects payments from customers. Arranges for and delivers products to customers and ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Provides after sales support to resolve any problems and provide on-going support. Plans, assembles, stocks product displays in retail stores, checks stock levels, and makes recommendations to retailers regarding product displays, promotional programs, and reordering of merchandise.

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and six (6) months of experience as a Salesman or Sales Representative.
Duties:Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers. Performs other related duties.

One (1) Office Clerk
Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and one (1) year of experience as an office clerk or administrative assistant or High School diploma (may be foreign educational equivalent) and completion of one (1) year administrative assistant training program or computer training program. Six months of experience using QuickBooks, Peachtree or other accounting software program.
Duties:Maintains and updates filing, inventory, and database systems using a personal computer. Reviews files, records, and other documents to obtain information to respond to requests. Compiles, sorts, and files records of office activities, business transactions, and other activities. Computes and records financial data and other information and perform basic bookkeeping. Operates office equipment and troubleshoot problems involving office equipment such as computer hardware and software, photocopiers and scanners, facsimile machines, voice mail systems, and personal computers. Performs related duties. Uses accounting software program in performing job duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to bello.lumintegar@yahoo.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three (3) days of hire.

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Thomas steals thunder from stars at Firestone



AKRON, Ohio (AP)—

Justin Thomas took all the drama out of the final World Golf Championship at Firestone, never letting anyone closer than two shots and closing with a 1-under 69 to win the Bridgestone Invitational for his third PGA Tour title this season.

Sweeter than capturing his first World Golf Championship was the sight behind the 18th green Sunday.

His grandparents, Paul and Phyllis Thomas, watched him win for the first time on the PGA Tour. Paul Thomas was a career club professional and played at Firestone in the 1960 PGA Championship, missing the 54-hole cut. His son, Mike Thomas, also is a career club pro in Kentucky and a former PGA of America board member.

"I got a little choked up when I saw grandma and grandpa over there," Thomas said. "It's really cool. They don't get to come out very often."

They saw a one-man show.

Playing in the final group with Rory McIlroy, the 25-year-old Thomas made only two birdies. That was all he needed on a day when just about everyone within range was making all the mistakes.

McIlroy finished the back nine with consecutive bogeys and never recovered. Ian Poulter shot 74. Jason Day tried to make a run by making three straight birdies, only to play the final six holes in 5 over to shoot 73.

Tiger Woods, an eight-time winner at Firestone, started 11 shots behind and figured he would go out with a bang by playing aggressively. He turned in a dud, and a birdie on the 18th hole gave him another 73 to leave him 15 shots behind.

"Things could have certainly gone better," Woods said. "But it is what it is, and on to next week."

Thomas must feel the same way. He had gone five months since his last victory, a playoff win at the Honda Classic.



Justin Thomas watches his tee shot on the fifth hole during the final round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Akron, Ohio. AP

Woods, McIlroy, and Thomas grouped for first two rounds at PGA

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Tiger Woods will begin his quest for a 15th major championship alongside defending champion Justin Thomas and two-time PGA champion Rory McIlroy when the 100th PGA Championship tees off Thursday at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis.

Woods, who won the PGA in 1999, 2000, 2006 and 2007, missed the cut in 2015 in his

most recent appearance in the PGA of America's oldest tournament. He hasn't won a major championship since capturing the 2008 U.S. Open in a playoff against Rocco Mediate. And he hasn't won a tournament since the 2013 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational, his 79th PGA Tour title.

In his most recent start in a major, Woods tied for sixth

in the British Open at Carnoustie in July. He briefly held the outright lead on the 11th hole in the final round.

Thomas won his first major at last year's PGA at Quail Hollow in Charlotte and topped last Sunday World Golf Championship at Firestone. McIlroy captured two of his four majors in the PGA Championship in 2012 and 2014. The three tee off at 9:23

a.m. ET Thursday and 2:48 p.m. Friday.

The Woods-Thomas-McIlroy grouping is just one of the featured threesomes in the first two rounds at Bellerive, which last hosted the PGA in 1992 when Nick Price won by three strokes. This will be the last PGA in August as the tournament moves to May in 2019.

Patrick Reed, Brooks Ko-

epka and Francesco Molinari, the winners of the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open, are grouped with a 2:15 p.m. tee time on Thursday and 8:50 a.m. Friday.

Jordan Spieth's attempt to complete the career Grand Slam begins at 2:37 p.m. alongside Jon Rahm and Justin Rose. World No. 1 Dustin Johnson is off with Bubba Watson and Adam Scott

While he didn't feel as though he were playing poorly, he didn't have the results to back it up. Now he does, and Thomas heads to St. Louis next week for the PGA Championship, where he will try to join Woods as the only players to win back-to-back in stroke play. Woods did it twice.

Thomas had not had a score better than 67, and he had not finished higher than a tie for 28th in his two previous appearances at Firestone.

"I'm glad I finally played well around here, just in time to leave," he said.

Firestone has held tour events since the Rubber City Open in 1954. The World Series of Golf began in 1962, and it became an official PGA Tour event in 1976. In many respects, it was the precursor to the World Golf Championships by bringing in winners from around the world.

Bridgestone shifted its title sponsorship to the PGA Tour Champions, which will bring its Senior Players Championship to Firestone next year. The World Golf Championship instead will move to Memphis, Tennessee.

Thomas finished at 15-under 265 for a four-shot victory over Kyle Stanley, who got within two shots of the lead until bogeys on the 13th and 14th holes. Stanley closed with a 68.

Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player who was coming off a victory in the Canadian Open last week, started the final round 10 shots behind and shot 29 on the front nine. A birdie at No. 10 put him three shots behind, but that was all he had. Johnson bogeyed the last hole for a 64 and shared third with Thorbjorn Olesen of Denmark, who also had a 64.

U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka had a 67 to finish fifth.

McIlroy won at Bay Hill in March and has three runner-up finishes, and he had said Saturday afternoon he was tired of finishing second. Not to worry. His 73 gave him a tie for sixth.

Thomas becomes the 21st player to win a World Golf Championship and a major, and his three victories tie him with Johnson and Bubba Watson for most on the PGA Tour this year. The ninth victory of his career moves him to No. 2 in the world, with a shot to regain the No. 1 ranking next week at the PGA Championship.

He set the tone early by hooking a pitching wedge over a steep lip in a fairway bunker to just short of the green and saving par with a 6-foot putt, then holing a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-5 second.

"It was big because I was really nervous today," Thomas said. "It felt like it had been a while, but I guess it hadn't really been that long. I don't know. I was very nervous, very jittery. To make that putt on 1 and again on 2 just kind of calmed me and got me going for the day."

Jordan, US athletes back LeBron after president questions player's intelligence



AKRON (AP)—NBA legend Michael Jordan and U.S. athletes rallied to LeBron James' defense on Saturday after U.S. President Donald Trump questioned the star player's intelligence in a tweet.

"I support LJ. He's doing an amazing job for his community," Jordan, now owner of the National Basketball Association's Charlotte Hornets, told NBC News through a spokesperson.

The comment by Jordan and others came after Trump had tweeted:

"Lebron James was just interviewed by the dumbest man on television, Don Lemon. He made Lebron look smart, which isn't easy to do. I like Mike!"

Trump was referring to an interview CNN's Lemon did in the days after James, who now plays for the Los Angeles Lakers, and his foundation had opened a public school for some of the most disadvan-

tagged children in his hometown of Akron, Ohio.

The president's "I like Mike!" comment apparently was Trump stating his opinion on the debate of whether six-time NBA champion Jordan or James, the four-time league most valuable player and three times champion, is the NBA's best all-time player.

Even the president's wife was supportive of James' work with children.

"It looks like LeBron James is working to do good things

on behalf of our next generation and just as she always has, the First Lady encourages everyone to have an open dialogue about issues facing children today," Melania Trump said in a statement issued by her spokeswoman.

NBA player Karl-Anthony Towns added in a tweet: "So let me get this straight: Flint, MI has dirty water still, but you worried about an interview about a man doing good for education and generations of kids in his hometown?"

In Cleveland, the Cavaliers will acquire forward Sam Dekker in a trade from the Los Angeles Clippers.

The teams are still finalizing terms of the deal, said the person who spoke Sunday to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the teams are still discussing details of the proposed swap.

The 6-foot-7 Dekker averaged 4.2 points, 2.4 rebounds and just 12.1 minutes last season, his first two with Houston. The Rockets selected the for-

mer Wisconsin standout with the No. 18 overall pick in 2015.

ESPN.com first reported the impending trade.

The Cavs are expected to use the \$5.8 trade exception they received last season in the Kyrie Irving trade to Boston for Dekker, who will get more playing time with a Cleveland team rebuilding following LeBron James' departure.

Cleveland also waived forward Okaro White, who played on the club's summer league team in Las Vegas.

Red Sox beat Yankees in 10th for 4-game sweep



BOSTON
(AP)—An-

drew Benintendi's RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning capped Boston's rally from three runs down in the ninth against New York closer Aroldis Chapman, and the Red Sox completed a four-game sweep over the rival Yankees with a 5-4 victory on Sunday night.

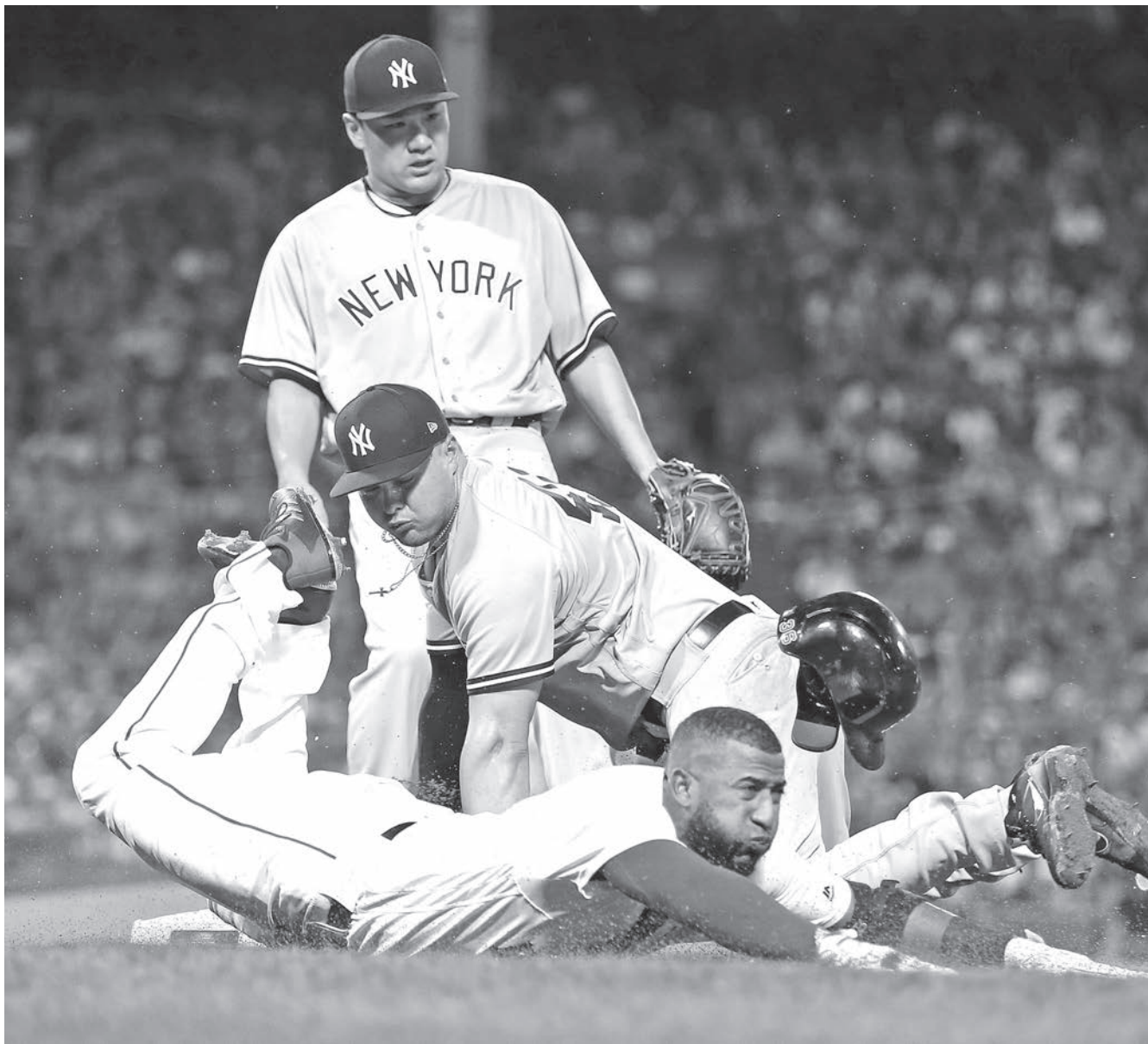
Boston opened a 9 1/2-game lead atop the AL East over the Yankees, who lost their season-high fifth straight.

Boston (79-34) has won eight of nine games and owns the majors' best record.

The Yankees hadn't been swept in a four-game series by the Red Sox when they entered a series 30 or more games over .500 since 1939, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Sandy Leon looped a two-out single off Jonathan Holder (1-3) in the 10th and advanced on a wild pitch. Tony Renda pinch-ran before Benintendi's single bounced up the middle to the right of second base.

Matt Barnes (4-3) worked a perfect inning in the top of the 10th.



AP
Boston Red Sox's Eduardo Nunez, left, beats the tag from New York Yankees' Luke Voit, right, on a single as Masahiro Tanaka backs up the play during the second inning of a baseball game in Boston, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018.

shot against Matt Moore in the seventh. Austin Wynn and Jonathan Villar also homered for Baltimore.

Phillies 5, Marlins 3

In Philadelphia, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning and surging Philadelphia completed a four-game sweep of Miami.

Cabrera, acquired in a July 27 trade with the New York Mets, crushed a 2-0 slider from Drew Steckenrider (3-2) into the right field seats for his 20th homer and his second in as many days.

Pat Nehsek (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth and Tommy Hunter worked the ninth for his second save as the Phillies overcame a mediocre outing from Aaron Nola for their fifth straight win. Philadelphia improved to an NL-best 38-18 at home and maintained its 1+ game lead over Atlanta atop the NL East.

Rockies 5, Brewers 4, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Nolan Arenado hit a go-ahead homer with two outs in the 11th inning to lift Colorado past Milwaukee thanks to an overturned replay review.

Arenado's 29th homer of the season came off Brewers closer Corey Knebel (2-2) and helped the Rockies avoid a sweep, giving them a sigh of relief on the flight home after an otherwise tough Midwest trip.

With Colorado closer Wade Davis struggling, the Brewers rallied for three runs in the ninth off Adam Ottavino in a save situation. But given a second chance, newly acquired reliever Seunghwan Oh closed out the Brewers in the 11th.

Mariners 6, Blue Jays 3

In Seattle, Kyle Seager hit two home runs and Nelson Cruz added another as Seattle powered past Toronto.

The Mariners had been held to three or fewer runs in 18 of their last 23 games, including three straight losses to the Blue Jays to begin the series, but got 10 hits Sunday as they snapped a five game losing streak.

Toronto tied the game at 3-3 in the seventh after shortstop Aledmys Diaz hit his 14th home run of the season against Seattle starter Mike Leake.

Dodgers 3, Astros 2

In Los Angeles, Brian Dozier delivered a two-run double in the first inning and Manny Machado had three hits with two runs scored as Los Angeles beat Houston.

Cody Bellinger had an RBI double for the Dodgers, who prevented a three-game sweep by the team that beat them in last year's World Series.

George Springer and Tony Kemp homered for the Astros, but Springer exited in the third with left thumb discomfort after he was thrown out trying to steal second base.

New reliever Roberto Osuna did not pitch in his first game on the active roster for Houston. Osuna was reinstated from the restricted list after serving a 75-game suspension for violating Major League Baseball's domestic violence policy. The All-Star closer was acquired Monday in a trade with the Toronto Blue Jays while he was still serving his suspension.

Nationals 2, Reds 1

In Washington, Matt Wieters homered to back Tanner Roark, who went seven innings to win his third straight start.

The Nationals took three of four from the Reds and have won eight of 11 overall.

Roark (6-12) allowed a run on seven singles and got a nice ovation when he made a diving stop on Billy Hamilton's comebacker to end the seventh. In his last three outings, Roark has allowed two earned runs in 22 innings (0.82 ERA)

with 20 strikeouts and a walk.

Indians 4, Angels 3

In Cleveland, Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer, rookie Shane Bieber picked up his sixth win and Cleveland beat Los Angeles.

Ramirez's home run in the first inning—his 33rd of the season—came against Deck McGuire, called up from Triple-A Salt Lake to start in place of the injured Tyler Skaggs.

Before the game Angels manager Mike Scioscia dismissed a report that he's stepping down after this season. Scioscia, who has managed the Angels since 2000, said before Sunday's game that he won't talk about his future with the club until the season ends.

White Sox 8, Rays 7

In St. Petersburg, Daniel Palka hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the ninth inning and Chicago completed its first three-game sweep in a year.

It was Chicago's first three-game sweep since Aug. 8-10, 2017 against Houston. The White Sox's last three-game road sweep occurred April 25-27, 2016 at Toronto.

Palka had struck out in each of his first four at-bats before connecting on his 17th homer off Diego Castillo (2-2) with two outs.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Jack Flaherty

cruised through six innings, Matt Carpenter hit another homer and St. Louis held on to beat Pittsburgh.

Completing six innings for the first time since July 3, Flaherty (5-6) allowed three hits with seven strikeouts and one walk.

Carpenter hit a solo home run in the fifth and Jedd Gyorko singled to drive in a run later that inning to give the Cardinals a 2-0 lead.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Evan Longoria's solo home run in the eighth inning led San Francisco past Arizona.

Longoria drilled Diamondbacks reliever Archie Bradley's 2-2 fastball with one out into the outcropping of seats in left-center field to break a tie. It was Longoria's 12th home run of the season.

The Diamondbacks' loss and the Los Angeles Dodgers' win Sunday created a tie for first place atop the NL West between the two teams.

Twins 6, Royals 5

In Minneapolis, rookie Jake Cave hit his first career grand slam and closer Fernando Rodney survived a chaotic ninth inning as Minnesota beat Kansas City.

Rodney gave up Whit Merrifield's fourth hit of the game leading off the ninth, but catcher Mitch Garver threw

him out trying to steal second. Rodney then allowed two more base runners, but with the tying run 90 feet away he retired Rosell Herrera on a ground ball to earn his 24th save in 30 chances.

Royals starter Danny Duffy (7-10) had allowed just two earned runs over 19 innings in three starts against the Twins this season.

Athletics 6, Tigers 0

In Oakland, Trevor Cahill struck out 10 in six innings, Khris Davis and Matt Chapman both homered for the second consecutive game and Oakland beat Detroit to complete a season sweep.

Matt Olson also homered and Ramon Laureano added three hits and an RBI to help the streaking A's win their sixth straight.

Oakland won all seven games against Detroit this season and has a franchise-record 12 consecutive victories over the Tigers. It was the first time in Oakland history that the team did not give up an earned run in a series of three or more games.

Padres 10, Cubs 6

In Chicago, Cubs ace Jon Lester was hit hard again and San Diego also battered Chicago's bullpen.

Cory Spangenberg put the Padres ahead to stay with a tie-breaking double off Carl Ed-

wards Jr. (3-2) with two outs in the eighth inning. Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer and Travis Jankowski added a two-run single in San Diego's four-run ninth against Randy Rosario.

Braves 5, Mets 4, 10 innings

In New York, Nick Markakis hit a go-ahead home run in the 10th inning and the Atlanta Braves, helped by pitcher Julio Teheran's first big league homer, rallied to beat New York.

Markakis finished with four hits and took over the NL lead from teammate Freddie Freeman.

Ender Inciarte also homered as the Braves posted their sixth victory in seven games. The NL East contenders took three of four at Citi Field for their first winning road series in more than a month.

Orioles 9, Rangers 6

In Arlington, Mark Trumbo homered twice and drove in five runs as Baltimore beat Texas to avoid a four-game sweep.

Trumbo's two-run homer in the third inning put the Orioles ahead to stay at 6-5 against Drew Hutchison (1-2), who was making his Rangers debut. The teams had scored in every half-inning before that, with the lead changing hands in four of those.

Trumbo added a two-run

Eagles extend Pederson, Roseman contracts through 2022



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Super Bowl victory gave Doug Pederson and Howie Roseman more job security.

The Philadelphia Eagles signed their coach and executive vice president of football operations to contract extensions through the 2022 season. Coming off the franchise's first championship since 1960, the team announced the deals an hour before a sellout crowd watched an open practice Sunday night at Lincoln Financial Field.

Pederson is entering his third season as coach. He originally signed a four-year contract with a club option for 2020.

Roseman began his career with the team as an unpaid intern in 2000, rose to become the youngest general manager in the NFL at age 34 in 2010, overcame a season in exile in 2015 after losing a power struggle to former coach Chip Kelly and returned to put together a championship team.

"We are thrilled to solidify continuity in our organization's leadership," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "Doug and Howie are committed to the success of our franchise by ensuring that we remain competitive, both in the short and long



Philadelphia Eagles head coach Doug Pederson runs a play during practice at NFL football training camp, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018, in Philadelphia. **AP**

while they could.

Coleman's tenure with the Browns will be best remembered for his drop late in the fourth quarter in last season's finale at Pittsburgh that sealed the Browns' 0-16 finish.

But beyond Coleman's problems on the field, he had issues outside the lines that hurt his standing with coach Hue Jackson and new general manager John Dorsey.

Coleman was named in a police report regarding an alleged felonious assault last year. He was also sent home from the Browns' trip to Houston for missing curfew while he was injured.

In many ways, Coleman symbolized the overall dysfunction of Cleveland's last regime.

In 2016, former head of football operations Sashi Brown traded the No. 2 overall pick to Philadelphia, which selected quarterback Carson Wentz. Brown got back draft picks in return and used one on Coleman, a speed burner from Baylor who was considered undersized by most draft experts.

And while Coleman strug-

gled and the Browns remained without a franchise QB, Wentz blossomed into an MVP candidate last season before suffering a knee injury.

This is the second major trade this year between the Browns and Bills. In March, Cleveland acquired quarterback Tyrod Taylor from Buffalo. Taylor led the Bills to a playoff berth last season and he's expected to start for the Browns while rookie Baker Mayfield, the No. 1 pick in this year's draft, learns and develops.

Coleman caught 56 passes for 718 yards and five touchdowns with the Browns, who are still in the market for a wide receiver.

Coleman's departure adds another wrinkle to Cleveland's muddled receiving situation. Former All-Pro Josh Gordon is currently not with the club in training camp as he attends to health problems, leaving Jarvis Landry as the only proven receiver atop the depth chart.

The Browns believe Gordon will be back at some point, and until he returns rookie Antonio Callaway and Rashard Higgins could see increased playing time.

Also, the Browns have considered signing Dez Bryant, the former Dallas star released earlier this year by the Cowboys.

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and four runs.

Rounding out the pitching leader list are the Mariners' Nathan Camacho (1.19), the Indians' Mel Sakisat (1.33), the Mariners' Kainoa Wanket (1.57), the Chalan Kanoa Bears' A.J. Lizama (1.68) and Jose Lizama (1.80), the Aces' Jose Guerrero (2.36), and the Mari-

ners' Jonah Flores (2.52). The pitching leaders were based on 15 or more innings pitched.

In the strikeouts category, Cabrera had 47, ahead by two against the Falcons' Frankie Lieto. Jose Lizama, Kapileo, Celis, Adolpho Roppol, Bill Camacho, and M.J. Sakisat recorded 39, 34, 30, 29, 26, and 23, respectively.

In other categories, Peter Tomokane is also in a close

fight for the doubles championship with his eight, up by only one against A.J. Lizama. Brian Camacho, John Tudela, and Ton Tenorio are at close third with six each, while Ben Jones, Franko Nakamura, Kiku Lizama, Jerome Delos Santos, and Leo Salalila have five apiece.

Three players are tied for the most triples with Kier Agda, Keoni Lizama, and Kiku Liza-

ma having four each, while Joe Palacios, Lamarc Iguel, Ricardo Dela Cruis, Shane Yamada, and Vince Torres are also in a deadlock for second place with three apiece.

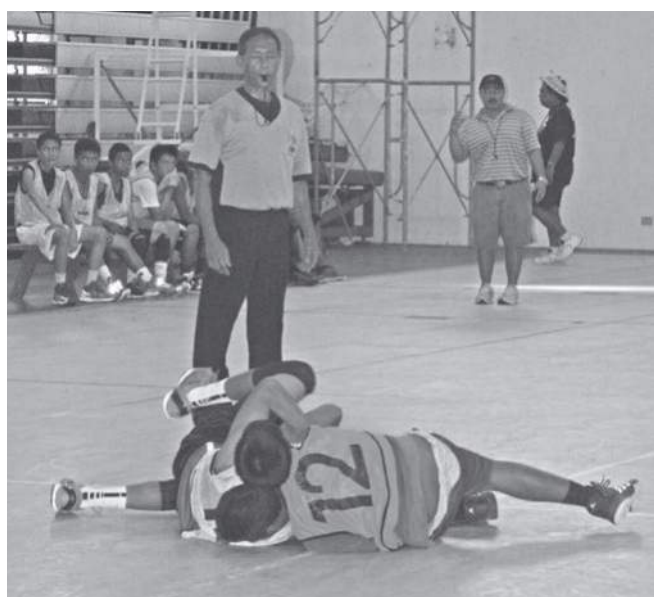
In the most home run and RBIs lists, A.J. Lizama is on top of both categories. He is tied in the homer (two) with Brian Camacho and Dela Cruz and alone at the No. 1 spot in the RBIs with his 26.

hand, recalled how Mesa gave him tips when he was just starting to referee games in the CNMI. Yabut was thankful to have Mesa as a mentor.

670 Sonics Basketball Association also thanked Mesa for sharing his knowledge to the group and its players.

"On behalf of the 670 Sonics Basketball Association, our condolences to the family of Arnold Mesa. He's a CNMI basketball advocate, supporter, official, and mentor. Arnold played a big role in the development of basketball in the CNMI. Arnold was committed and dedicated to the sport of basketball, most importantly, to our youth basketball development. He wanted our youth to learn and understand well the fundamentals of playing the sport and the rules of the game. We, 670 Sonics say 'thank you, and may you rest in peace Arnold,'" Sonics coach Omar Ajoste said.

Rex Yabut, on the other



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Arnold Mesa blows the whistle to call a held ball as two players battle for possession in a junior high school league.

ing, he is willing to share his knowledge and although at times we had disagreements, I always respect his opinion because he officiated basketball and was FIBA certified ahead of me. He also knew

when and how to admit mistakes and at crucial moments, when players complained and fans hated his calls, he managed to keep his composure," Sitchon added.

Rex Yabut, on the other

MESA

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waiting for Mesa's daughter for more information about the FIBA-certified referee's funeral arrangement so that MIBF could work on something to help the grieving family.

"On behalf of MIBF and our basketball community, we would like to express our condolences to Arnold's family. His contribution to CNMI basketball is invaluable and we would like to thank him for all the time and effort he gave to the sport we all love," Rangamar said.

Mesa's fellow referees and other groups he helped also had a lot of good words for him.

"If there is one word to epitomize Arnold Mesa, it is basketball. His love for basketball is immeasurable. You can sit with him the whole day and all the time the topic is about basketball," Manny Sitchon said.

"When it comes to officiat-

people who supported this team. They showed good level of football game," Mita said.

Mita, who was assisted by Jerish Angeles and had Kwok Kei Poon as goalkeeper coach, praised the Teen Ayuyus' effort to adjust in a different environment and style of play.

"At the beginning of the tournament, our team chemistry needed to improve more. The boys needed to adapt to a different weather, environment, and football style," the head coach said.

Mita added that more than winning, it's important for his boys to learn from their experiences in the tournament, especially after meeting people who stay in Tuloy sa Don Bosco.

"They made new friends and learned different cultures. After meeting the boys in Tuloy, our players realized how lucky they are," the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director said.

Tuloy, according to its website, is a center that cares for the poor and abandoned children from the streets or from abusive family environments. Tuloy residents are given free education, accommodation, food, and medical services and are also taught other skills that will prepare them for a better and productive life once they leave the center.

LOSS

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which is to be champions of this tournament. I believe the players' willingness to learn and do their best to improve is more important than the game results," Mita said.

After bowing to Malaya FC, the Teen Ayuyus won over Schwarz FC and forced Chelsea FC Soccer School Hong Kong to a draw, 3-3, to make it to the finals. In the one-game finale, the CNMI was paired against Chelsea FC—the undefeated squad in the elimination round.

The Teen Ayuyus then engaged the No. 1 ranked team to a nip-and-tuck game and by the end of the regulation, the opposing squads were still tied, bringing the finale to a shootout. The CNMI went on outgun Chelsea in the shootout, 4-2, behind the goals for Thaiphil Austria, Sebastien Manabat, eventual tournament MVP Mark Esalan, and Golden Boot awardee Rintaro Miyawaki. Goalie Jonathan Mindanao got the job done on the defensive end for the Teen Ayuyus with his two saves.

"It was very good game. Both teams did their best until the end. Both teams deserved to be in the finals. I would like to congratulate our boys and also sincerely thank my staff, NMIFA, the parents, and all

CNMI vs Mongolia in EAFF U15 Boys Tournament 2018

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



CNMI defenders form a wall, as Mongolia's Buyannemekh Ganbat prepares for a free kick during their game in the East Asian Football Federation U15 Boys Tournament 2018 held late last month in Xianghe, China. The CNMI forced Mongolia to a scoreless draw.



Head coach Michiteru Mita points out strategies to his players during a halftime break.



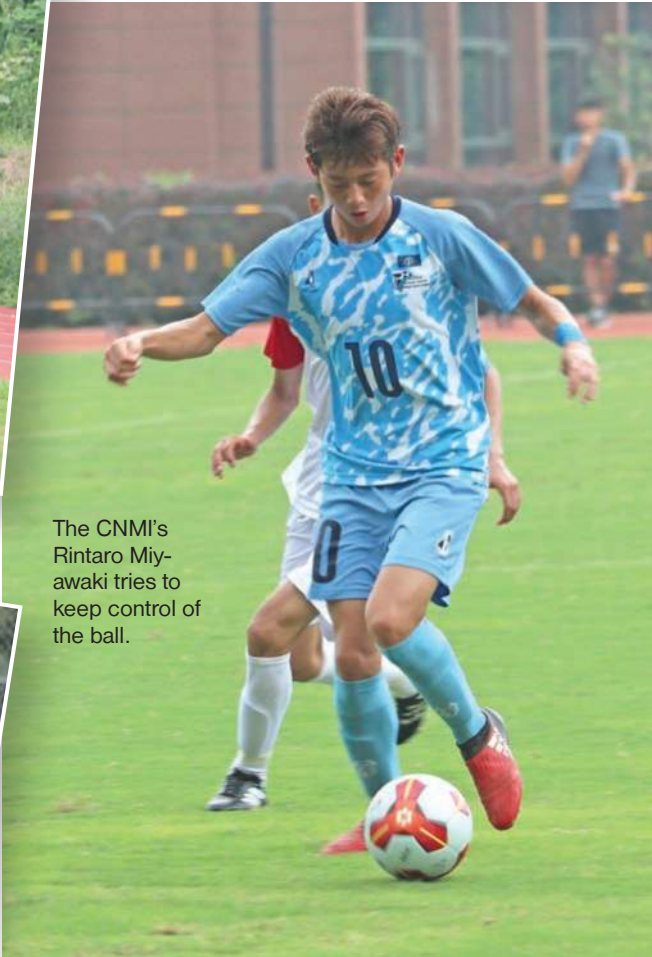
Daniel Pablo, front, and Rinto Takahashi line up for warm-up drills before their game against Mongolia.



The CNMI's Ian Karl Maniago gets ready for a corner kick.



The CNMI's Oliver Fajardo, center, keeps a close eye on Mongolia's Munk-Erdenes Tserendavaa.



The CNMI's Rintaro Miyawaki tries to keep control of the ball.



CNMI and Mongolia players and game officials line up before heading out to the field.



Mongolia's Munk-Erdenes Tserendavaa, attempts to break free from Reginald Pascual, right, while the latter's teammates prepare to provide help defense.

Thomas steals
thunder from stars
at Firestone

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Red Sox beat
Yankees in 10th
for 4-game sweep

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team players and officials pose with participants and organizers of the Inaugural Tuloy XO Cup held last week in the Philippines.

Loss leads to CNMI's win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team's defeat against Malaya Football Club served as a wake-up call to the Teen Ayuyus, who went on to top the Inaugural Tuloy XO Cup in the Philippines last Sunday.

Malaya FC stunned the CNMI, 4-1, foiling the latter's bid for a third straight victory in the six-team tournament. The Teen Ayuyus, before facing Malaya, cruised to a 4-1 win over Luen Thai Soccer School and also eased past host Tuloy, 5-1.

"After the loss to Malaya, we had a meeting and the team discussed what we need



to improve on. After the defeat, the team showed better discipline and chemistry in attacking and defending," head coach Michiteru Mita told *Saipan Tribune*.

"I'm happy that the boys learned from that loss and all the players were determined to achieve our objective—

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Long-time basketball referee Mesa passes away

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI basketball community is mourning Arnold Mesa, who passed away last weekend in California due to an illness.

Mesa was the most active referee in the Commonwealth, officiating local leagues, school tournaments, and even international and regional competitions where the CNMI played. He was once the president of the referees group on Saipan. He also played basketball here and in Guam in his younger years and represented the CNMI in the World Masters Games both as a referee and player.

"He's irreplaceable," Mariana Islands Basketball Federation official Elias Rangamar said when asked to describe Mesa and his contribution to CNMI basketball.

"He was always there to get the job done. If a referee

can't make it to the game, you just call him and he will step in. You can rely on him even on small



tournaments or school competitions and he can stay for the whole day and officiate in all games," Rangamar said.

The MIBF official was informed by Mesa's passing last weekend. Rangamar is still

See MESA on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI referee Arnold Mesa, left, gestures while officiating a basketball match in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.



JON PEREZ

The Blue Jays' Noel Cabrera concentrates before pitching during their game against GSM last April in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Flores leads pitching race; Cabrera ahead in strikeouts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Aces' Franco Flores is ahead in the pitching contest, while the Blue Jays' Noel Cabrera leads the 2018 Saipan Baseball League in strikeouts.

Flores registered a 0.56 ERA when the league took a break in June to lead nine other pitchers. He pitched 16 innings in six games and

gave up only 14 hits and one run to pace Go See Mark's Kevin Kapileo and Roy Celis, who posted 1.03 and 1.16 ERA, respectively. Kapileo worked the mound in 25.2 innings in five games and yielded 17 hits and three earned runs, while Celis pitched 31 innings in six games and allowed 27 hits

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